



Photo by Mariela Flores Mission Youth Photography Program

OUTRAGE OVER THE ROJAS PLAN

DEMOLITIONS, MERGERS ALARM PARENTS

by Victor Miller

At a standing-room only encounter with more than 200 parents, teachers and Mission residents, School Superintendent Bill Rojas endured the unanimous savaging of a school district proposal to relocate and reconfigure five Mission educational facilities.

The two-hour meeting, which took place at the Mission Recreation Center on November 30, was the latest chapter in the struggle to rebuild John O'Connell Vocational High

School. O'Connell has been unusable since being damaged in the 1989 Loma-Prieta earthquake.

For the past four years there has been a groundswell of community energy behind a simple idea: Repair the building, bring back O'Connell. In October O'Connell supporters learned of a more complicated scheme, already in its fourth version: the Mission District Educational Infrastructure Redevelopment Plan. Mercifully for all concerned, except Mr.

continued on page five

CHAVEZ BLVD. OR KEEP IT 24TH ST. ?

STREET RENAMING CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY

by Victor Miller

A proposal to rename 24th St. (at least the Mission District portion) "Cesar Chavez Boulevard" received a generally positive response at a November 16th meeting of Latino, labor and community activists, but also drew some opposition.

The meeting was called by Supervisor Bill Maher, who initiated the name-change idea and is gathering community support for legislation to make it official. Maher called Chavez, late President of the United Farm Workers, an inspiring leader, and said: "Naming the street in his honor is the most powerful way we can say he was important."

The meeting at Mission Language and Vocational School was attended by about two dozen people. Among those expressing approval for the new name designation were Jean Royal, Director of the Cesar Chavez Institute at S.F. State; Rick Sorro of Mission Hiring Hall; Larry Delcarlo of the Mayor's Office of Community Development and Mitchel Salazar, Executive Director of the Real Alternative Program.

The proposal would affect only the stretch of 24th between the freeway and Dolores St. (essentially the predominately Latino business district). It would allow for a five-year period during which the street would be referred to by both names to facilitate the changeover of business mailing addresses, stationery and cards. Jennie Rodriguez, President of the 24th Street Merchants' Association, told attendees that the Association's survey of 50 24th St. business owners showed 4 initially in favor of the idea, 13 opposed, and the rest undecided. Rodriguez told the News that although her group had not yet taken a final position on the issue, "I think that there will be no problem with it, if it's something that comes from the community and the community feels strongly about it. But nobody approached me about it before; it just came all of a sudden from the

City."

Glenda Powell, a board member of the very vocal Inner Mission Neighbors organization, expressed some reservations about the project: "I want to see something done, but I'm not sure renaming a street is the appropriate thing. I'd much rather see the City devote every penny to a job training program." Maher responded that the estimated \$5000 in costs could be easily raised from private sources. At press time Powell said there had been no vote by the general membership of her organization, but a majority of the board of directors opposes the name change.

Maher aide Roberta Boomer said the next step in the process will be "lots and lots of community meetings." While the five-year dual name period may mitigate merchant concerns about business disruption, the name "24th St." has, over the years, developed sentimental ties and cultural connotations which some people feel are part of their personal history. These kind of considerations may prove difficult to address.

More painful are the memories of the last year's bruising fight over the expansion of a homeless shelter at 24th and Alabama St.; nobody wants a recurrence of the divisiveness and ill-will that controversy provoked. "This should not be an issue that divides the community into pro- and anti-Chavez factions," said Rodriguez. While C.C.Blvd may be an idea that the Mission eventually warms to, it is not something that's going to happen overnight.

One fact is indisputable: 20th Century Latinos are completely ignored in the area of San Francisco Street names. Street Names of San Francisco, by Louis Loewenstein, lists nearly 70 streets named after identifiable Spanish or Latin individuals. All are associated with the Spanish Colonial era, with the exception of a few rich property owners from the mid-19th Century.

LIBRARY BATTLES TO STAY OPEN

by Stephen Pantos

The Mission Branch Library is scheduled to close for two years for renovation to strengthen it against earthquakes, provide wheelchair access and add 30 percent more public space. Construction is scheduled to begin in June, 1994, and the building will reopen in November of 1995. However, the boiler system has been beyond repair since it broke down in January of 1993, and the branch is seeking to occupy a temporary site as soon as January 1, 1994. At the end of November, the building became so cold after its Sunday and Monday closed days that librarians warn that it may have to shut down some days by sundown, if it cannot meet the legal minimum for building temperature.

The Library has been unable to find donated space. The City's Real Estate Department has begun negotiations with the owner of the Old Mission Consortium Childcare Center at 2915-21 Mission Street near the corner of 25th Street. The Library

estimates the total temporary site cost at \$300,000. Unlike the closing at Chinatown Branch, the City's second busiest, no "anonymous" donor has come forward to finance a move to a temporary branch. The Mission Library is the third most used in San Francisco. It has developed voluminous Spanish and Latin American collections, unique to the City, which make it a very busy place. While patronage has been dramatically increased by the recent collection program, it has been just as noticeably hindered by library staffing cutbacks. The Mission Library Community Advisory Committee, made up of members of long-standing Mission community groups, urges library patrons to contact Mayor Jordan about funding a temporary building to house the branch. Call (415) 554-6141 or write: The Honorable Frank Jordan, City Hall, Room 200, San Francisco, CA 94102.

The Board of Supervisors' Economic Vitality Committee may also consider the matter at the regular hearing date of Dec. 14, 1993, 2 p.m. at City Hall.

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FARMS IN THE MISSION!?

by Clare Knight

Slap bang opposite the Valencia Gardens Projects at 15th and Guerrero, wedged between a car-wash and a laundrette, there is indeed a wheatgrass farm. It's hard to miss, actually. The neat brightly painted red and green facade looks incongruously cheerful and optimistic surrounded so closely by littered side walks, drug dealing and the regular sounds of gun shots and police sirens. In fact there is a certain sort of defiance about the pretty flower filled window boxes and stacks of emerald green wheatgrass flats set outside on the sidewalk. It's like a small oasis of hope and health holding out against encroaching urban decay.

The large hand-painted pictorial sign that hangs at the top of the building was commissioned to illustrate as closely as possible the vision of Eva Moen, the wonder of this urban farm, but she says it doesn't come close to what she has in mind.

Eva Moen is my neighbor, and I have watched with great interest as her wheatgrass farm has gradually developed from what was originally just a shabby old shack attached to a car wash into the thriving new age business it is today. Being a health food nut I had a vested interest in the success of this venture; the prospect of having fresh squeezed wheat grass juice so easily available every day was pretty exciting!

For the uninitiated wheatgrass juice is one of nature's best blood builders and purifiers because of its high chlorophyll content. It's loaded with vitamins, minerals and enzymes, high in protein, easily digested and particularly helpful for people with cancer and AIDS. Eva has booklets available explaining the extensive healing properties of this unique food in more detail.

I recently talked with Eva one funny afternoon in the back yard of the little house where the actual farming occurs. The yard, like the front of the house, has been dramatically trans-



Mission urban farmer with a mission, Eva Moen. Photo by Eugene Kettner

formed. Once overgrown and abandoned, it is now an orderly and productive urban farm, complete with white picket fence dividing the wheatgrass growing area from the vegetable garden. All around are splashes of brightly colored flowers and an American flag flaps gently in the breeze.

As we sit on the patio sipping our wheatgrass juice, we're joined by a couple of Eva's many cats and an old german shepherd dog. Surveying the peaceful scene, it's hard to believe that we're only a stone's throw from Valencia Gardens.

Eva Moen came to the U.S. from Norway in 1964. Tall and blonde, still holding on to her accent, she seems classically Scandinavian. She tells me that she comes from a farming family, so working hard in the soil is second nature to her. Life was hard there emotionally

as well as physically and she was very grateful for the opportunity American has given her. Eva spent her first year in Boston working as a family maid and came to SF in 1965. She tried a few different jobs before starting her own real estate rental and appliance repair business.

Then, sometime around 1975, she had her vision. As she tells it, she woke abruptly in the middle of the night and saw the world covered with short green grass. She had no idea what it meant until, a couple of days later, she walked into a health food store and for the first time in her life saw containers of wheatgrass juice. She says she knew immediately that her life's work was to help heal the planet with wheatgrass. She says she sees it as God's plan to detoxify the air, the water and people's bodies. Her role in this divine plan is

to teach people from all over the world to grow their own wheatgrass; this will be part of the new age healing process of the planet.

Around 1983 she began growing wheatgrass on her back porch, juicing it in a meat grinder and selling it from her rental office on Franklin street. A lot of people came to buy the juice until the building was sold and the new owner didn't want her selling juice out of the office. Undeterred, she rented a garage and tried growing it inside until the seeds attracted rodents and she got kicked out. She's now solved that problem with her cats. In 1988 she dumped her rental business, kept the appliance repair part and told God if he wanted her to carry out his plan he was going to have to help her find an appropriate place to do it! A few days after that, she saw 1785 15th street advertised in the newspaper, and she knew it was the perfect place.

The farm had developed to the point where Eva has had to take on four employees to help with the marketing and deliveries and she's added buckwheat sunflower and barley to her crops. Health food stores are regular buyers, and even pet food shops carry the grass for cats and dogs!

Eva has started a newsletter and teaches classes regularly on how to grow your own. Students clutching juicers have already returned to their native Philippines, El Salvador and Colombia to spread the word. The vision is becoming a reality. Eva would like to see wheatgrass juice bars in senior centers, corporate offices and acupuncture clinics. "We all need to drink the juice to detoxify our bodies. The environment is very polluted and it's going to get worse," she says.

You can pop into the farm during store hours to juice your own or buy a flat of grass to take home. A selection of juicers are for sale and flats can also be delivered.

Wheat Grass Growers are located at 1785 15th Street, SF, 94103, 415 864-3001. Store hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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THREE MISSION MAKEOVERS

On November 20th, a crisp and clear Autumn Saturday morning in the Mission, blight and grime were under attack by three separate groups, all working to transform some of the neighborhood's grunge zones.

On Mission Street dozens of volunteers organized by the newly appointed Captain of Mission Station, Joaquin Santos, hauled off accumulated trash and painted over graffiti covered walls and storefronts along a five block stretch between 22nd and Army. This was the second in an ongoing series of cleanups Santos is coordinating. The previous Saturday about 70 people showed up for the kickoff beautification effort that took place on 24th St. A third cleanup is planned for the 16th St. area sometime in December; for more information on this call Officer Ray Benson at 553-1543.

On Bartlett St. between 21st and 22nd members of Precita Eyes Mural Center's Young Women's Mural Project were nearing completion of the first of five murals planned for this graffiti ridden block. The initial mural, the work of seven young women 12 to 19 years old and their instructor Catalina Gonzalez, is described by Gonzalez as a "work showing women in their connection to the spirit of na-

ture". This endeavor was funded by the Neighborhood Beautification and Graffiti Cleanup Project. Precita Eyes is in the process of gathering the necessary community support to secure funding for the next four murals.

The most ambitious activity of the day was the ground breaking ceremony for Alioto Mini-Park's metamorphosis by the Mission based Latino women's group Pacha Mama. For as long as anyone can remember, this severe and unappealing patch of earth at 20th and Capp St. has been a haven for dopedealers, drunks, whores and their associated hazardous waste. Pacha Mama, after three lengthy design workshops with neighborhood residents, developed a multiple use plan for the site and acquired Open Space money from the City to make it all happen. When completed in several months the mini-park will have flower and vegetable gardens, brand new children's playground equipment, public restrooms, a mural and even a gazebo. A six to eight foot fence will surround the park and a locked gate will secure things during the evening hours. Garden maintenance and classes in gardening will be provided the San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (S.L.U.G.).



Eyesore eliminated on Capp Street.



A vision emerges on Bartlett Street.

Photos by Eugene Kettner



Graffiti eradicated on Mission Street.

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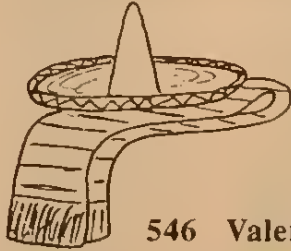
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O'CONNELL DEBATE RAGES ON

continued from page one

Rojas, this has been dubbed the Rojas Plan.

The Rojas Plan calls for the demolition of the existing John O'Connell building at 21st and Harrison; the demolition of two elementary schools, George Moscone and Las Americas at 20th and Harrison; and the demolition of Marshall Annex, a pupil services center near 16th and Mission. The populations of Marshall Annex, Moscone and Las Americas Schools, plus students from Mission Education Center now in temporary facilities in Noe Valley, would be moved into a new three- to four-story building to be constructed on the old O'Connell building site at 21st and Harrison. This new structure would also contain 50 units of affordable housing and possibly a rooftop recreation area.

O'Connell would be rebuilt as a state of the art high-tech high school on the lot cleared by the demolition of Moscone and Las Americas Schools, at 20th and Harrison Sts. An athletic field is also included in the design.

The emptied Marshall Annex would be developed, possibly in conjunction with a Mission-based non-profit corporation, as a mixed-use housing and retail complex, with rents from the latter being paid to the school district.

\$20 million in Emergency/Hardship funding from the state of California, originally intended for the repair of O'Connell, constitutes the bulk of the \$23 million available for these projects. Rojas claims that's sufficient; but he says the alternative, reconstruction of the existing O'Connell building, would cost \$30 million.

Community activists, teachers and parents had over a month to ponder the enormity of all this before venting their wrath at a defensive but unflappable Rojas, which they did at the November 30th meeting. One woman asked the Superintendent,

"How can you tell us this is for the welfare of the community when the community has been ignored? We were told about this plan



The deserted O'Connell Building; tear it down or build it up? Photo by Eugene Kettner

only after it was put together." Rojas responded that the whole thing was merely an idea: "To have a plan, we first have to talk, and that's we're doing now."

The Rojas "idea" had somehow generated its own set of architectural drawings, which were being shown on a large screen at the meeting. At one point, an irate parent, Pancho Gonzales, leaped onto the auditorium stage and, pointing to a projected sketch of the proposed new buildings, declared: "That's a blueprint for a prison; all that's missing are the gun towers ... Let the State Department of Corrections pay for it".

Mission resident Al Lopez, reacting to what he and many others present as the secrecy in which the Rojas Plan was developed, called the Superintendent's actions a *vergüenza* (disgrace) and suggested, "If you can't learn how

to work with the community, you should go back to New York."

Punctuating her remarks with a clenched fist, Lita Blanc, a teacher at Moscone School, demanded of Rojas: "What does the plan offer to the students of Moscone School? The best schools in the City are the small ones, where the teachers and the students all know each other." Rojas said the new elementary facilities would not exceed an enrollment of 800, which was little consolation since it would more than double Moscone's current enrollment of 373.

The component of the plan calling for combining affordable housing and elementary schools at 21st and Harrison drew an angry reaction from parents who feared the housing units would become the haven of drug dealers. One neighborhood resident envisioned drug

gangs between the 21st and Harrison and Army St. Projects gangs. His remarks drew a sharp burst of applause.

Rojas responded favorably to a suggestion that O'Connell be relocated in the Mission Armory at 14th and Mission, saying, "If the Armory is available and if the money is there, we'll do it."

Rojas has promised more meetings and discussion on these issues,

and he may get more than he bargained for. Alianza, an outspoken Latino advocacy group that helped organize the November 30th meeting, plans to mobilize "a thousand people, if necessary" to defeat the Rojas plan, according to David Aldape, one of the organization's vice presidents.

Rojas contended the plan or idea is a way to use the earthquake damage to O'Connell as an opportunity. "O'Connell rebuilt as it is in the existing building gives us less square footage; we are suggesting these things because that building is not adequate for a high school of 1200-1400 students." He said that Moscone and Las Americas buildings have only 8 to 10 more years of life in them and that the site-switch concept made sense, since the school district would wind up with two new buildings.

Critics point out the loss of Marshall Annex means the school district actually winds up with one less property.

Despite the vehement protests, Rojas defended the plan patiently and persistently throughout the meeting, seeming just as determined to move ahead with the reorganization as everyone else was to stop it. Obviously this is a fight that is far from over; but community members, teachers and parents are united in their opposition and think that's all that should matter. As one man told the Superintendent, "If you look around the room at all the faces, you can see that we're not happy. And looking at your face, you're not happy. So if you're not happy and we're not happy why do this?"



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GIVING PEACE A CHANCE

by Kathleen Baca

More than a month before the President of the United States told a group in Los Angeles that to stop the violence ravaging their community - that they must "take (their) communities back community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, block by block, family by family, child by child" - two Mission District agencies had already kicked-off a campaign to do just that.

On Oct. 13, 30 young people stood outside the steps of the Sunshine School on Bryant Street to deliver a message: STOP THE VIOLENCE. The youth, who ranged in age from 13 to 18, were on hand to launch a campaign to end harrio warfare. For some, the campaign conjured up images of friends gunned down on the streets and reminded them of the difficulty in leaving a gang they once thought of as a family. Yet for others, the day's event merely reminded them of how violent the streets are and how badly they want things to change.

Among those present was 25-year-old Tracy Brown, director of the YMCA Mission Girl's Services. Brown, now a parent, grew up in the Mission and doesn't want her children exposed to the same type of violence that she was. Along with the other youth present, she wants things to change.

It is exactly for that reason that two community agencies are spearheading the drive to bring about community peace in the Mission. Members of the Real Alternatives Program, (RAP), a 24-year-old organization with a history of working with Mission District Youth and their parents, and the Central American Refugee Center (CARECEN), founded in 1986 to assist Central Americans, joined forces to form the Mission District violence Prevention/Lifeline Initiative — a program aimed at abating violence among the area's young people.

Armed with the premise that violence is a preventable social ill, and the names of more than twenty kids that had been killed in the Mission, members of RAP and CARECEN applied for grants from the San Francisco Foundation and the California Wellness Foundation to launch an old-fashioned, grass-roots campaign against violence. Their vision was to enlist parents, teens, civic leaders, merchants and residents to develop a violence prevention plan. The team successfully secured more than \$100,000 from the two organizations to develop a five-year community peace plan; the plan will target youth ages 11-24 who live in the Mission and Latino youth throughout the City who identify with the Mission.

Echoing the President's message, Mitchell Salazar, executive director of RAP, agrees that violence cannot be stopped until communities unite and develop a cohesive plan to address violence.

"Violence is a societal problem that must be viewed as a public health issue. By taking that attitude, we're hoping to create a

model plan that can be duplicated throughout the City. It is time that we took a proactive rather than a reactive approach to violence," Salazar said. "While gun control and stringent laws regarding violence may be enacted, they won't mean a thing if communities aren't participating at a grass-roots level to implement the changes while at the same time reaching out to our kids."

To that end, The Violence Prevention Program elected 12 parents and 12 youths on Oct. 27, to serve on the program's steering committee. Parents and youth will hold the majority voting block on the 47-member steering committee.

"It is important," said William Hernandez of CARECEN, "that we enlist the support of parents and youth. It's important that they have a strong voice in developing community policy. Who better to articulate the needs of young people than a young person who has seen friends killed on our streets and is struggling to do the right thing?"

As part of the five-year community peace plan, the group intends to offer children positive and practical alternatives to life on the streets by creating public/private partnerships to give youth opportunities and skills to advance in the job market.

"We want to provide positive role models for kids," Salazar said. "One person can make a difference in a kid's life."

There are an estimated 16,000 kids living San Francisco's Mission District; of those 500 are suspected gang members. Organizers don't want that number to increase.

Hernandez knows first-hand what can happen to kids who are growing up in an increasingly violent society, where good kids go unnoticed and gangs replace families. Along with others in the Central American community, he watched in disbelief as Central American youth were fast becoming the majority of kids to die in gang-related incidents.

"Many of those kids had fled war-torn countries to come here," he said. "Gangs replaced the families they either left behind or watched be killed. We had to do something."

"We didn't have a child to waste," Hernandez said, "Something had to be done. We here at CARECEN and RAP understood that in order to stop the violence we would have to take the initiative. Both our agencies are committed to protecting our youth."

During the past few years both agencies had recorded an increase in gang activities. And last year San Francisco police reported an increase in overall violent crime in the Mission. It was then that RAP and CARECEN decided to join forces. To date the group has brought together more than 300 City residents in a community summit on violence, organized Parents United Against Violence, and drafted a framework for Strategy for Community Peace, with the support of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial.

And on Nov. 10 organizers met with key City department heads including Anthony Ribera, Chief of Police; Florence Stroud, interim director for the Department of Public



Health; Fred Jordan, Chief Probation Officer; and School Superintendent Bill Rojas.

"The idea," Salazar said, "is to get all the people involved in that make decisions regarding youth or allocations of funds for youth programs on the same page so we can develop a cohesive plan that can be duplicated throughout the City. Violence is something that is not specific to any one neighborhood. It affects us all."

The question put to department heads who attended the meeting, Salazar said, was "how can San Francisco create an infrastructure to support healthy communities and meet youth needs for safety, respect and economic security?"

Some of the solutions proposed Salazar said included eliminating service gaps, delivering services at convenient community locations, making resources for prevention and diversion programs a priority, supporting the Mayor's directive to department heads to maintain or augment violence prevention expenditures in 1994-95 budgets, and to establish consistent cross-departmental and cross-neighborhood systems for collection and exchange of information.

And, said Edwin Rodriguez, director of CARECEN, "Because of the Nov. 10 meeting we were able to meet with members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, many of whom said they would be interested in 'hooking up' with us to look at ways to develop jobs for youth."

"All the support we're getting is an

important step in moving the program forward."

In addition to teaming up with elected officials and department heads, the group is scheduling a series of focus groups that will tackle such topics as youth offenders, incarcerated youth and the Youth Guidance Center, families and Latino gangs. The group will also organize an after school support group for young men and house meetings.

There are no quick-fix solutions to abate violence," Salazar said. "Violence is not and cannot be confined to any one neighborhood. This is a citywide issue that demands the community's attention. Violence can only be reduced through a community-wide commitment to peace and health. It's like the President said; we have to take back our communities 'block by block.' RAP and CARECEN are committed to see that happen."

For more information regarding the Violence Prevention Plan or ways to get involved contact David Aldape at RAP at 282-9984 or William Hernandez at CARECEN at 824-2330.



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What's Good About Gangs?

By Aisha Beliso

When people start hanging or "chillin" around a gang it's mostly because they got problems at home or they just need a place where they feel like they belong where they don't have to worry about if what they are doing is right or wrong. You also feel like your protected because you and your homeboys take care of each other, it's a family where you don't have any rules but love from all your homies. I'm not saying that gangs are good or the thing to do but if you really want to know what it is like to claim, and be down for a color, you won't find out just by reading newspaper articles. When you walk down the street and you get jumped or shot then you will understand how it is to be in a gang.

Gangs: The Good Thing Is

By Tony Reed

The good thing about a gang is that you can peel hoes everyday of the week.

What's Good About Gangs? What's Bad?

By James Ky

There are two reasons why people join in gangs. One, it's good to be in a gang because people knows it to be cool and to get backup in case you get in a fight with some people. They just want to show off or to be cool for girls, especially girls. Why? Because the girls will go out with this gang member to get his back-up.

And the other reason to me is bad because you could get killed anytime or day or night. It doesn't matter if you mess around with some other gang member just because you have someone backing you up. You could get killed, they could mess up your family. It can mess up your whole life.

Gangs Are Raza Hurting Raza!

By Marcy Sandoval

Hi! My name is Marcelina. What I have to say about gangs is: it is very stupid. People are killing each other, just killing each other over a color or a rag. I already have had like 10 homeboys that have been killed. It really hurts me a lot, having to go see my friends in the hospital or see them in a coffin. My homeboy Froste go stabbed and was in the hospital for 12 days. I thought he was really going to make it but he didn't. I really don't know why I got involved - there is a lot of risk out there....

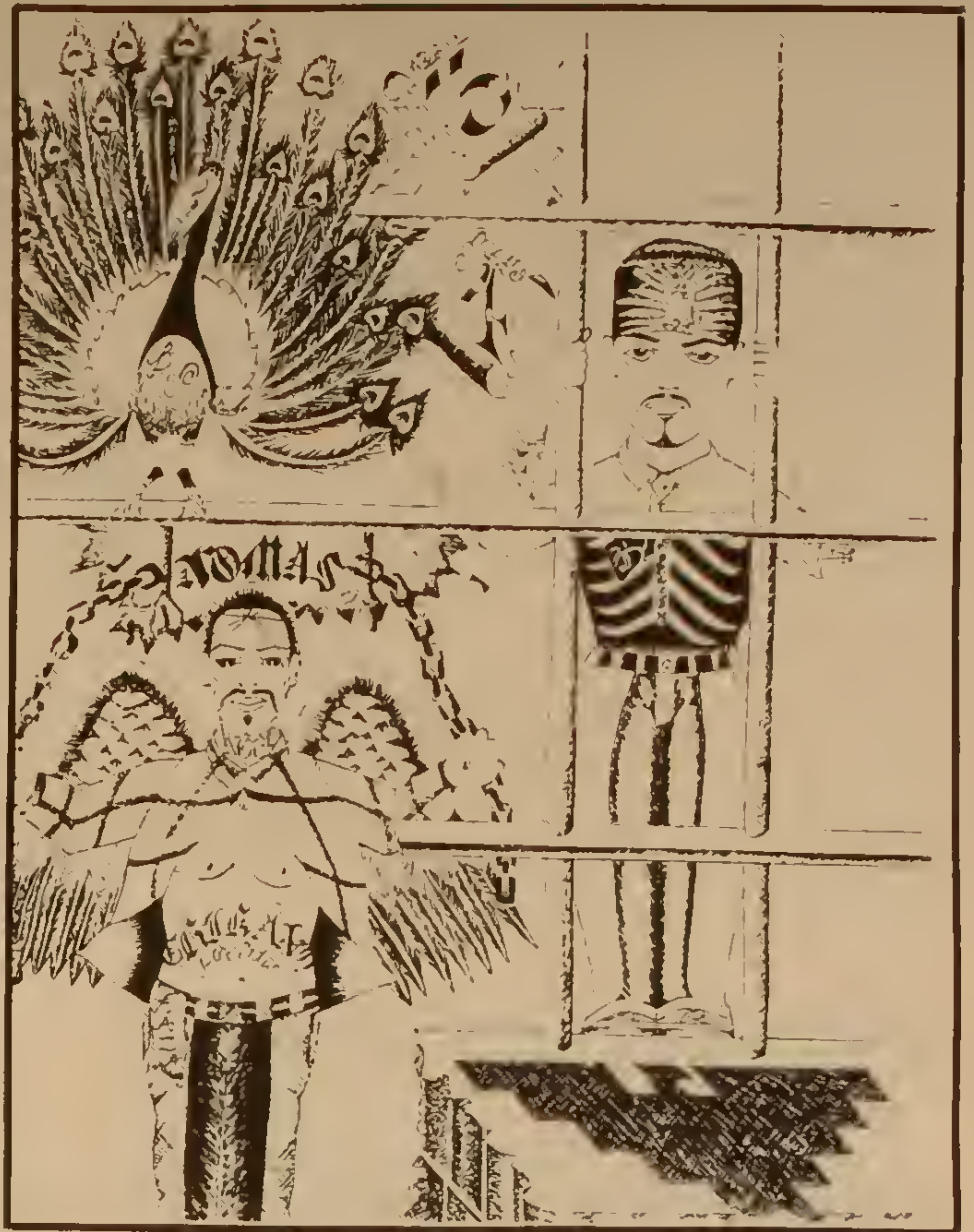
Gangs Are Bad

By Salvador Valle

Killing people over a color is bad and I don't want it to happen to me because it is hard to walk out in the street without getting shot or stabbed just because someone thinks you claim a color.

How Do You Become a Gang Member?

(Anonymous)



You get jumped in and you be in the gang. But people shouldn't be in a gang because they'll just die or be in the hospital.

All About Gangs

By Lesi Sepulona

What's good/bad about gangs? It's bad

because people could die off of gang. It's good if you have back up. How do you become a gang member? You get jumped in. What would you say to someone wanting to join a gang? Don't be in there or your going to end up somewhere your family don't want you to be at.

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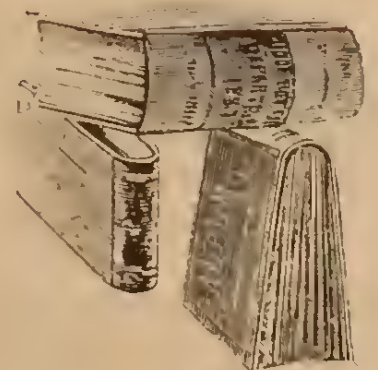
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LOCAL ACTION, GLOBAL VISION

by Ana Maria Murillo

We've known the storefront for many years as Modern Times Bookstore (before they moved half a block down the street). Since September 18th, it has been the shared offices of "Yahoo Compost Service" and "Friends of the Chimalapas Rainforest". The coalition has been formed for one main purpose, to get the word out to everyone about local and global ecological issues. While Yahoo shows the way to compost, Friends of the Chimalapas is helping save Mexico's Rainforest. The storefront has its own mural out front, decorated with little worms who invite you in. If you look inside there are shelves full of Mexican, Peruvian, Salvadoran and Guatemalan treasures. Everything from clothing, woven bags, and handmade statues of people and animals to a beautiful selection of silver and beaded jewelry. (Shop here for the holiday season!)

Yahoo promotes ecology through composting. Composting is the process of turning organic material you usually throw away (fruits veggies, plant clippings, etc.) into rich, natural fertilizer. As you may know, landfill has become a serious problem, with Americans producing garbage faster than we can "dispose" of it. And after all our efforts to make landfills, do they even work? Composting is the answer. According to Yahoo founder Fernando Pastor: "If everyone composted their kitchen scraps and yard waste, landfill would be reduced by 30%. Additionally, when compostable matter is recycled rather than thrown away, the nutrients that otherwise create ozone-depleting gases when dumped in landfills are made available for reuse as dark,

crumbly soil. This finished compost provides an affordable, natural alternative to chemical fertilizer, adding nutrients to the soil while improving its texture and ability to hold air and water."

Yahoo also has a variety of goods and services. They can sell you compost bins, wormboxes and other ways to compost plus, they go to schools spreading the word via hands-on classroom presentations. Yahoo believes their main product — worm boxes which contain earth worms that convert household wet garbage to compost — makes a practical, fun learning tool and Christmas present for kids of all ages (just ask a yahoo). Yahoo also delivers — by way of bicycle.

One of Yahoo's main goals for this year is to bring the composting "awareness and action into the communities of color and low income who have traditionally been excluded from the environmental movement." For this reason, all information is available in Spanish; being in our beloved Mission District, Yahoo has a prime location. Call 282-WORM.

Friends of the Chimalapas is a San Francisco based branch of a Mexican environmental group (Maderas Del Pueblo) formed in 1991 specifically to save the Chimalapas Rainforest. This rainforest is special because it is the last remaining rainforest in all of Mexico. Located in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, Las Chimalapas is about the size of Rhode Island. It is the only home in all of North America for many species of plants and animals.

Those who have live on the land, the Zoque Indians, have inhabited the region since before the conquistadors came. As of now,



Yahoo honcho Fernando Pastor and unidentified giant worm. Photo by Eugene Kettner.

there is no clearly defined border for the rainforest and the only attempt to make one, a government scheduled ceremony on Oct. 9th to formally sign into law the boundaries of the region was arbitrarily canceled only two days before it was supposed to take place, according to Mike Kavanaugh, founder of Friends of the Chimalapas.

unique enterprises is to help people make the connection between ecological practices at home and ecological systems in other countries. Both Yahoo Compost Service and Friends of the Chimalapas are looking for volunteers. If you want to learn more about what they do or offer your help, you can call 282-WORM, or stop by 968 Valencia at the corner of Liberty St. (between 20th and 21st); you can't miss it. See you there ...

One of the educational goals of these two



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by andy solow

Open Space Brawl

On Monday, November 15, about 35 angry Mission residents attended the second meeting of the newly formed Mission District Open Space Task Force (MDOSTF). They demanded that the Recreation and Parks Dept. proceed expeditiously with the completion of all previously approved and funded Mission District Open Space projects including: the 23rd & Treat St. Park, the Mission Rec Center Children's Playground, the Dolores Park Soccer Field, the 24th St. Mini Park Fence, the renovation of Alioto Mini Park, and the Franklin Soccer Field.

These projects had previously negotiated the requisite gauntlet of public review successfully including: the Citizens Open Space Advisory Committee, the Parks and Planning Committee of the Rec & Park Commission, the Rec & Park Commission, the Joint Rec Park and City Planning Commission, the Budget Committee of the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor.

When I spoke with Rec & Park General Manager Mary Burns on Friday, November 12, she claimed that "all Mission District Open Space Projects were on hold until the MDOSTF issued its recommendations". But, on Monday night at the MDOSTF meeting, Rec & Park Assistant General Manager Phil Arnold stated that only some of the previously approved projects were on hold. These included the 23rd and Treat St. Park and the renovation of Franklin Soccer Field.

During the meeting, La Nita Sanchez, a long time Mission resident and girls soccer coach, claimed that she had spoken with Louise Renne and that the City Attorney told her that it would be illegal for an unsanctioned body like MDOSTF to place previously approved and funded Open Space projects on hold. La Nita declared that the MDOSTF was nothing but a another political maneuvering device designed to rip off the Mission. She threatened to use all available legal means to prevent Rec & Park staff and self-appointed Taskforce Co-Chairs Planning Commissioner Toby Levine and Rec and Park Commissioner Sam Ruiz from circumventing the legally prescribed public process.

After more than an hour of rancorous debate, I made a motion to "affirm the past" by supporting all previously approved and funded Mission District Open Space projects and the public process through which they were approved and funded and requesting that the Recreation and Parks Dept. proceed expeditiously with these projects.

Amazingly, Levine and Sam Ruiz tried to tell us that we had no right to make such a motion; but their claim fell on deaf ears. The motion to "affirm the past" was approved by unanimous vote.

The next meeting of the MDOSTF will be on Monday, December 6, at 7:00 pm at Mission Recreation Center, 745 Treat St. Discussion topics will include timely implementation of previously funded proposals, additional proposals, and long range planning for the open space needs of the Mission District.

Matrix Thug Exchange

At their November meeting, the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC) decided that they didn't want the Matrix program enforced in their neighborhood. According to Carmen White, president of HANC, "The idea of having our police officers going after nuisance or quality of life crimes is misguided. Thanks, but no thanks." (S.F. Independent, 11/16/93)

Since there are at least 50 drunken, thieving, drug-dealing thugs in the Mission who really need to be Matrixed, I hereby request that the San Francisco Police Department give the Mission District all of the police resources that were previously allocated to implement the Matrix program in the Haight. Since HANC doesn't think that these "poor homeless people" have anything to do with violent crime, I suggest that the Police tell the Mission thugs to go directly to Buena Vista Park

Off With Their Carts !

God may punish me for writing this by making me homeless and denying me wheels, but it's time to take the shopping carts back!

Business & Professions Code section 22435.2 makes it illegal to possess a shopping cart without the permission of the owner. Violators may be cited and fined \$100, provided that the code section is affixed to the cart. Thus, the first modification that any homeless person worth his salt makes on a newly acquired set of wheels is the obliteration of the offending code section.

According to the head of security for Cala Foods, in 1992, Cala spent over \$500,000 on retrieving, cleaning, and replacing shopping carts in San Francisco County alone. The district managers for Safeway Stores reported similar costs, which are obviously passed on to consumers in the form of higher food prices.

So why would San Francisco knowingly provide wheels for homeless people and recycling thieves at a cost of \$1 million per year? Maybe our City fathers don't realize that many of these stolen shopping carts are used to transport drugs and stolen property like the three television sets that were stolen from the Salvation Army on or about November 17 by a thief with a stolen shopping cart.

Never mind that the specter of hundreds of people pushing shopping carts around the City probably drives away millions of business dollars annually; Keith McHenry might wave his big fat finger (or worse yet Angela Alioto might wave her skinny little finger) in the face of some poor unsuspecting politician and accuse him or her of "cruelty to homeless people."

Of course, it's just possible that a kinder and gentler solution to this problem exists. I bet that if San Francisco would agree to enforce PC 22435.2, Safeway, Cala would agree to give all of the money that they saved on shopping carts to the City to help the homeless. City residents could continue to subsidize the homeless by allowing the various stores to continue their current hidden "shopping cart surcharges."

It's Alive!

The Mayor's Mission Task Force still exists. Now in its fourth incarnation, MMTF has been producing a lot of interesting, if controversial, suggestions. On October 7, MMTF opposed "the use of public funds to pay for the placement of anyone in any of the S.R.O. hotels owned by Chotubhai (Charlie) Patel in the City of San Francisco unless and until all of the outstanding code violations on all of his hotels are abated."

Also on October 7, MMTF demanded that "no further attempts be made to house alcoholics, drug addicts, vagrants, parolees or the mentally ill in S.R.O. hotels in the Mission until the other neighborhoods of San Francisco take on their fair share of this burden."

On Thursday, December 2, at 7:00 pm at Mission Playground, MMTF will be discussing items including: an after school teen program for Bryant School Yard; metal detectors for public high schools; additional police service for the Mission; rehab programs; a "public inebriate" court; and minimum security incarceration space for drunks. The meeting is open to the public.

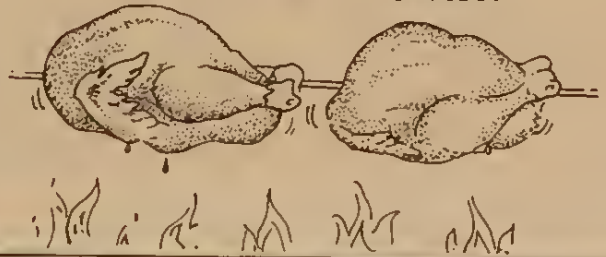


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FILLING THE GENERATION GAP

by D. Michael Spero

What do you get when you bring together the police, Latino youth, Asian business owners, parents and neighbors? At Hampshire and 24th Streets, you get improved communication and a group that can deal with violence, drugs and other problems in the Mission.

With a liquor store on one corner and a half-boarded up laundromat on another, 24th and Hampshire is a too typical Mission intersection. A large low income housing development dominates the Southeast side. Most evenings, groups of young men with nothing better to do hang out on several corners. On a good night, everybody gets along; other times, drug sales, fights and shootings drive people indoors to fantasize about moving away.

This fall, a group of parents organized by Padres Unidos Contra La Violencia (Parents United Against Violence) took action. They pulled together one of the few intergenerational block organizations in San Francisco. "The kids are our responsibility," said Cristina Gutierrez, a dynamic, youthful looking grandmother and member of Padres Unidos. "They're not getting enough attention because parents are working all the time."

From the start, the Hampshire St. group (still nameless) involved youth in their activities and meetings. In October they packed the housing development community room for what diplomats would call a "frank airing of views" between young residents, Mission police officers and 24th Street merchants. A video store owner reported that a customer had been assaulted with a baseball bat. The kids complained that police put them against a wall or on the ground to search them without cause. They felt they weren't bothering anyone and had nowhere else to go. "The police were defensive. They weren't listening much," Gutierrez said. "But we need police, parents, and kids to come together. With unofficial meetings like ours, we at least get communication started."

Professional organizers like Pam Matsuda of Project SAFE believe Hampshire is on the right track. "We always recommend that everyone be included, especially if they are seen as the problem," she said. "Kids and adults really need to hear each other's perceptions. When youth feel respected, when they're asked to be part of the solution, they're much more willing to modify their behavior."

Many times, though, adults hesitate to approach young people who act hostile, seem disinterested, and may be armed. Often the kids on your corner don't live there, so you don't know them. "You don't have to approach a whole crowd of strangers," said Matsuda. "If you know one person by name, talk to them. Or another neighbor may know some of them. And you can get help." Hampshire Street neighbors used youth workers from RAP (Real Alternative Project,) and SAFE to connect with kids.

It doesn't always work. Chris Ford of the Guardian Angels said his group has worked with neighborhoods who tried to bring adults and youth together, but later had to resort to street patrols to control youthful criminal behavior. "(Reaching out to kids) is always worth a try, though," he said. I asked Matsuda what neighborhood groups can offer youth with nothing to do. She said, "Ask them." Most of the people hanging out are not gangbangers or drug dealers. "You need to investigate who they are and what they're doing," said Matsuda. "Most neighborhoods have enough resources to involve kids in constructive activities." Of course, those engaged in criminality must still be dealt with by law enforcement, she said.

THE NEXT STEP

An African saying runs, "It takes a whole village to raise one child." Well, we've got lots of children and no villages, only cities where working adults disappear behind locked doors every evening, leaving the streets to the alcoholics, criminals, and teenagers. If communities don't get involved in kids' lives, children self-destruct and take the community with them. Padres Unidos and Hampshire



Street neighbors are holding more gatherings to bring all elements of the community together. They have begun a support group for parents of gang-affiliated kids. They want to address issues of employment, education and housing as well as safety, according to Gutierrez. "We need to get back the feelings of community and family," she said. "We need to be in control again."

respected youth programs.

SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) - Phone 553-1984, 850 Bryant. Help with organizing.

Padres Unidos - Call Roban San Miguel at RAP 282-9984

Guardian Angels - 931-7099. Specialized in street patrols, but also help neighbors connect with youth.

Guerrero House - Job counseling and other programs. 899 Guerrero.

Park and Recreation Department - Start with Mission Rec. 695-5012, 745 Treat St.

Resources for working with youth:

Real Alternatives Project (RAP) - Phone 282-9984, 2730 Bryant. A variety of highly-



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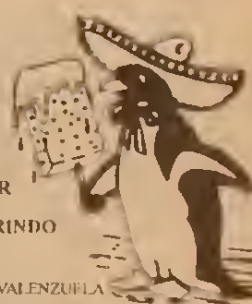
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MISSION INSIDER

BY LISA HAMBURGER

THE AGENCY IS COMING, ARE WE READY?

The San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (the Agency) gets a bad rap for reasons which have nothing to do with today's reality... so say some Mission District folks in defending the Agency. Others, however, are perfectly blunt: the Agency is an ill-conceived, possessed institution controlled by the haves to pillage the have-nots of what little they have left.

While the truth of the matter probably lies somewhere in the middle, few people are without strong feeling toward the Agency. What can't be denied is that the Agency's presence in the Mission District is increasingly a topic of conversation.

The Northeast Mission Industrial Zone is the most recent Agency playground. The area is currently being rezoned to protect scarce industrial land. A plan was put forward by community members who wanted to participate in this technical endeavor and met with residents and businesses to get their input. The community plan encourages a mix of industrial uses, while preserving existing land uses.

An alternative rezoning plan was produced by Department of Planning Commission President Sydney Unobskey and Agency Executive Director contender Kent Sims without any community input. The Unobskey-Sims plan is an assaultive proposal to convert the neighborhood to a bioscience haven.

What's more, Sims has already proposed that the area be designated a project area and publicly has blamed neighborhood activists for UCSF's lack of expansion opportunities in the Mission. The facts are that UCSF has stated its support for the community plan and the Mission supports UCSF, provided that jobs will be available for Mission residents and the negative impact of expansion are mitigated.

Under State law, the Agency must first survey a proposed project area and seek the comments of neighborhood residents, merchants, property and business owners. As part of the process, a designated area must be represented by a community organization which helps set priorities for investment. The lynch pins, of course, are in the determination of who is the community representative entity, what improvements are undertaken and at whose expense.

In the late '60's, when the Mission united to fight against the Agency plan to bulldoze Mission Street, they requested that the community-representing organization be recognized as the bargaining representative of the community and that it be given veto power over the agency's plans. Unfortunately, bureaucracies are known to act as they want, not as their advisory committees suggest.

A review of history confirms that the Agency is what its critics say it is. In 1953, according to the SF Bay Guardian, before the Agency declared the Western Addition A-2 Project Area, there were 1,091 businesses in the neighborhood. Today, there are only 706. Along Geary Boulevard fewer than half remained after the Agency did its work.

In a 1967 report documenting the Mission's battle with the Agency, the City specified its intent to reduce the number of low-income and minority people from the City. Demographic forecasters

predicted that the City's 1978 "negro" population would be 16.5% and other non-caucasian 12.3%. The City Community Renewal Program (the Agency) targeted the reduction of these figures to 13% and 11%, respectively.

Closer to home, however, the Agency has accomplished some good. Following the Loma-Prieta Earthquake, the 6th Street corridor and environs in the South of Market were designated a project area. Under the watchful eye of the South of Market Problem Solving Council, the Agency has come up with a comprehensive plan to replace housing lost during the earthquake, establish a resident based hiring program, and develop a teen center.

It's also important to note that the Agency has already dabbled in the Mission District. Over a year ago the Agency committed to spend \$1.0 million on 24th Street to both empower businesses operators to own their property and to facilitate new businesses to establish themselves there. Almost one-half of the funds have been lent. An evaluation of the program at this time would be premature. However, there is a brewing argument about reprogramming some funds.

While the Agency can provide for comprehensive improvements, few trust the bigger-than-life entity, partly due to its dubious history and partly to the power of the commission versus the idiosyncracies of the executive director. With no one home in the Mayor's office and Kent Sims short-listed to take the Agency's helm, surveying the Mission for a project area is a risk the Mission cannot afford.

Two years ago, a bioscience sanctuary in the Northeast Mission Industrial Zone (NEMIZ) was inconceivable. Three months ago over 50 people, testifying at two formal public hearings, shot down the bioscience plan. Yet in a summary document, soon to be released by the Department of Planning, the mere inclusion of the bioscience plan suggests that the City still thinks the plan is credible. Then there is the Agency's Strategic Plan proposing the NEMIZ as a project area.

The latest confirmed rumor is that the entire Mission District is being considered as a project area.

Even more disconcerting is whether the Mission community can actually tame the Agency. The Mission community has not consistently shown that it can rise to any occasion. Ever since the late '60's, the community has been divided and self-defeating in addressing a number of important issues. Only increasing youth violence has brought a semblance of an energetic and united response.

Many of us in the community live and work in the Mission because of its diversity. But, when it comes to addressing the issues of the day this same diversity is like a pit bull which turns on its owners. Time and time again I've seen the Mission community stop a development or project, I've yet to see it proactively solve a problem.

The Mission's economic and social problems will not go away. We must come up with our own plan, like the folks in the Northeast Mission did, and unite to fight for it. The great diversity of opinions and meeting after meeting will all be for naught without a united front. Building something from the rubble of ideas may be hard, but it's nothing compared to starting over. The Agency is planning on doing just that, bulldoze and start over.

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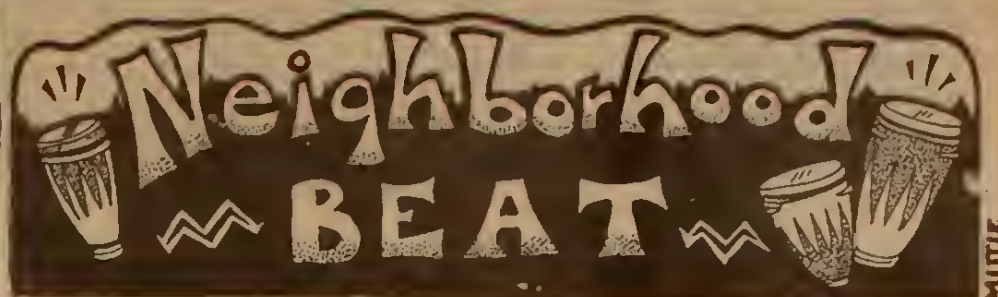
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VANGUARD TURNS 21

One of the most progressive groups funding socially active organizations today is the Vanguard Public Foundation, a vital source for community groups that deal with everything from AIDS education to refugee rights. Over the last 20 years, it has given away nearly 7 million dollars to more than 3,000 organizations.

The Foundation was organized in 1971 by Obie Benz, a young anti-war activist who had just received a large inheritance. At the time, there was no mechanism in place for connecting wealth to social activism, so he got together with five other people who also had inherited wealth and shared similar concerns. They started out giving approximately \$30,000 to 29 community groups; the rest is history.

Vanguard's mission, according to executive director Hari Dillon, is to fund "effective, community-based social change projects that uphold human rights, equality, diversity and peace."

It is not just an African American foundation, a Latino foundation, or a women's foundation; it funds all of these areas and more. Many of these communities don't have much access to mainstream funding; Vanguard is unique in both its diversity and its concentration on underserved groups.

Grantees often tackle potentially risky or controversial issues such as gang violence or immigrant worker rights. Some such organizations based in the Mission include: Mujeres Unidas y Activas, which educates and advocates for immigrant women; Instituto Laboral de la Raza, which works for the rights of Spanish-speaking and undocumented workers; St. Peter's Housing Committee, which helps Mission tenants' rights organization; CRECE, a program that addresses youth violence, particularly gang membership by Central American youth; Padres Unidos en Contra la Violencia, a parents' group working to stop violence and advocate justice for youth; and the Women's Building.

Vanguard also actively supports gay and lesbian organizations, such as the International Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Money is donated by people with inherited wealth who want to contribute to a more equitable society. The average grant is about \$4,500, but grants range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

On criteria for funding, Grants Director Linda Lucero said, "Generally, we are interested in groups that have demonstrated a capability to advocate and are really working for self-determination ... to organize people whose voices have always been there but that the mainstream doesn't hear."

Last month, Vanguard celebrated its 21st anniversary with a major fundraising benefit, headlined by Danny Glover and Alice Walker.

For more information, call the Vanguard Foundation at 487-2111.

Lauren Hirshson

JAIL JOE CAMEL

Tobacco Free
Task Force



Columbia Park
Boys Club

This graphic, on tee shirts worn by youth from the Columbia Park Boys Club who work on the Youth for a Tobacco Free San Francisco campaign, was designed by task force member Ricardo Garcia. This is R.J. Reynold's best friend, Old Joe, behind bars because we

believe he's being used to target low income communities, youth and smokers with his pro-smoking message. Those on the Youth Task Force are working to make their communities free of Joe's influence. For more information, please call 861-8232.

THE PRINTS OF CALIFORNIA

The California Society of Printmakers will hold its annual membership show — an exhibition of the finest print works in the state — at the Mission Cultural Center's Galeria Museo, 2868 Mission Street from December 8 through December 28 with an opening reception on Sunday December 12 from 1-4 p.m. Over 100 prints will be shown at this juried exhibit.

"Printmaking allows the reproduction of prints in multiples; doing this, one can spread

an idea that is much more accessible to the population. The Mission Cultural Center is proud to have such a prestigious association exhibit the works of their members here at the center," said Cultural Center Artistic Director Rene Castro.

The current membership of the California Society of Printmakers is composed of art historians, supporters of the arts, art institutions, collectors and, of course, printmakers.

For more information call Juan Pablo

New
College
of
ALIFORNIA

Community Action Journal

December 1993 • 866 Valencia Street • San Francisco • 94110 • (415)241.1300 X427

NEW COLLEGE C.A.R.E. IN COALITION TO ESTABLISH CENTER FOR RECENT IMMIGRANT YOUTH

The Center for Community Action, Research and Education in collaboration with five other organizations lead by Arriba Juntos has received a city grant of \$240,000 to create a Young Newcomer's Center which will provide comprehensive social, educational and recreational services for Latino immigrant youth. The project will combine case management services with an after school and weekend program of academic enrichment, recreation, workshops in cultural heritage, historical connection to San Francisco and the Mission District, conflict resolution and personal and social problem solving and counseling provided by a bilingual, bicultural staff.

The project originally envisioned by David Aldape of Alianza will serve immigrant latino youth, ages 6 to 17. Eighty percent will come from the central Mission District, 15% from the Outer Mission and 5% from the Excelsior. Many of these youth are refugees from abject poverty and civil war but their new life here has not brought them peace or prosperity. Although a small percentage are involved in gang activity, they are a menacing presence. A string of teen murders has prompted two community wide 'summit' meetings aimed at abatement of gang activity.

Immigrant Latino youth are more vulnerable to these influences than their urbanized, acculturated peers who have been here for years. Adapting to the culture, customs and language presents a profound challenge to a child especially one who arrives traumatized by war and burdened by poverty.

In general, Latino immigrant youth need encouragement and support from family and society in order to successfully negotiate the difficult passage from one culture to another. This project has identified the need for (1) a place to meet outside of school to form social bonds, (2) organized recreational and social activities, (3) training in English as a second language, (4) academic tutoring, (5) orientation to the street culture around them, (6) individual case management in accessing social and health services, (7) knowledge of the history and culture of the community of which they are now a part, (8) personal and social skills to solve problems and resolve conflict without violence, (9) a more positive self image and (10) a more positive group image in the media, (11), vocational coun-

seling, and (12) computer training as an essential tool in the information age.

The collaborative members will provide the following services:

Arriba Juntos, a community development corporation serving the Latino populations for 28 years offering education, job training, employment counseling, mental health services, and housing and advocacy will provide the administrative oversight, fiscal duties and assist in the program staff hiring and client referrals.

Youth for Service, founded in 1957, is an agency which provides programs and vital support systems to young people will provide the computer lab training and job counseling.

Horizontes, one of the Mission District's premier community publications in the arts, culture and youth involvement has a circulation of 15,000, and was honored in 1992 with the Eugene Block Award for its work with immigrants and day laborers. Horizontes will lead will provide arts and culture education, hands on journalism instruction and media enhancement.

The SF Departments of Social Services and Public Health will develop protocols for coordinating referrals and interfacing with the immigrant clients.

ALIANZA, a Latino based organization was created to stimulate civic participation by San Francisco's indigenous Latino population. With more than 85 years of combined planning, development and neighborhood empowerment work will consult with the collaborative in community organization, planning, and outreach.

New College's Center for Community Action, Research and Education will participate in two ways. First, through its Community Action Media Lab it will provide a curriculum of personal and social problem solving which will integrate with workshops lead by community leaders in the areas of cultural heritage, SF and Mission District history, street culture and violence prevention. New College will also provide community service internship availability for college students from New College and other institutions of higher learning to help expand and enhance the delivery of services by the various components of the program.

Participation in this collaborative continues and expands at New College a pedagogical model developed by such places as the Highlander Folk School and Freire's work in Brazil where education merges with important social movements. Anyone wishing to know more about the collaborative project should contact Michael J. McAvoy, Director, Center for Community Action, Research and Education at (415) 241.1300 x 241.

LEE SOTO, ARRIBA JUNTOS FOUNDER, RETIRES AND ACCEPTS HONORARY CHAIR POSITION AT NEW COLLEGE



Lee Soto, 1993

Leandro P. Soto had a vision of a community based organization that would lift the Latino community of San Francisco "upward together". With Herman Gallegos and James McAlister in 1965, he founded Arriba Juntos as one of the community action programs created in the Great Society era of the 1960s. In 1966, through Arriba Juntos he initiated Horizons Unlimited, a dropout prevention and leadership development program. For nearly thirty years, as Arriba Juntos grew into one of the leading nonprofit agencies in San Francisco, Lee himself emerged as a key leader and spokesperson for the Latino community.

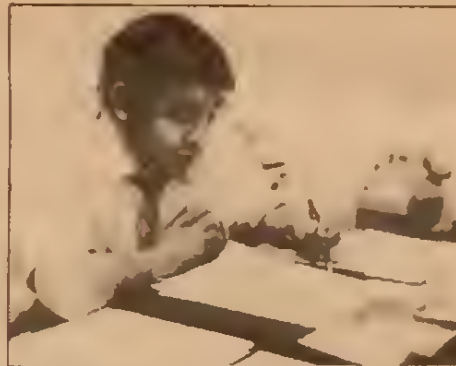
Now Lee Soto is moving to a position in the Center for Community Action, Research and Education as Honorary Chair in Community Development where he will teach, do curriculum development work in areas related to community service and community development and play a role as esteemed elder in advising the college in areas related to community involvement especially with the Latino community.

Lee's strong family roots as a Chicano/Latino provided a framework for the role he assumed as a community

leader. His father was an immigrant from Jalisco, Mexico. At 16, his father was a waterboy carrying buckets to Mexican workers laying track for Union Pacific. Lee's mother was a native of El Paso. She later worked as a waitress in the segregated "pueblo Mexicano" near Riverside where she met Lee's father. At six, Lee became a shoe shiner. Later he worked as a farm worker in the San Joaquin Valley.

Lee's ability to work with public, private and non-profit sectors was a key asset in his success in community development. He developed programs with Model Cities, NIMH, CETA as well as job training programs within the private sector. In 1991, he saw the completion of a 48 unit affordable housing project for low income households in the heart of the Mission District.

On September 9, 1993, at a dinner held in Lee's honor, Martin Hamilton, New College Vice-President announced Lee's new position to the hundreds gathered there. His work which has always empha-



Lee Founding Arriba Juntos in 1965

sized the translation of a progressive vision of social change into meaningful and concrete activities for the Mission community will be of tremendous benefit to New College students, faculty and administration. He will be sharing the wisdom, sensitivity and compassion of decades of activism with those who will carry on and beyond to a better world for those "most in need".

A welcoming reception for Lee will be held at New College at the start of the Spring semester when he returns from a well deserved vacation to south America.

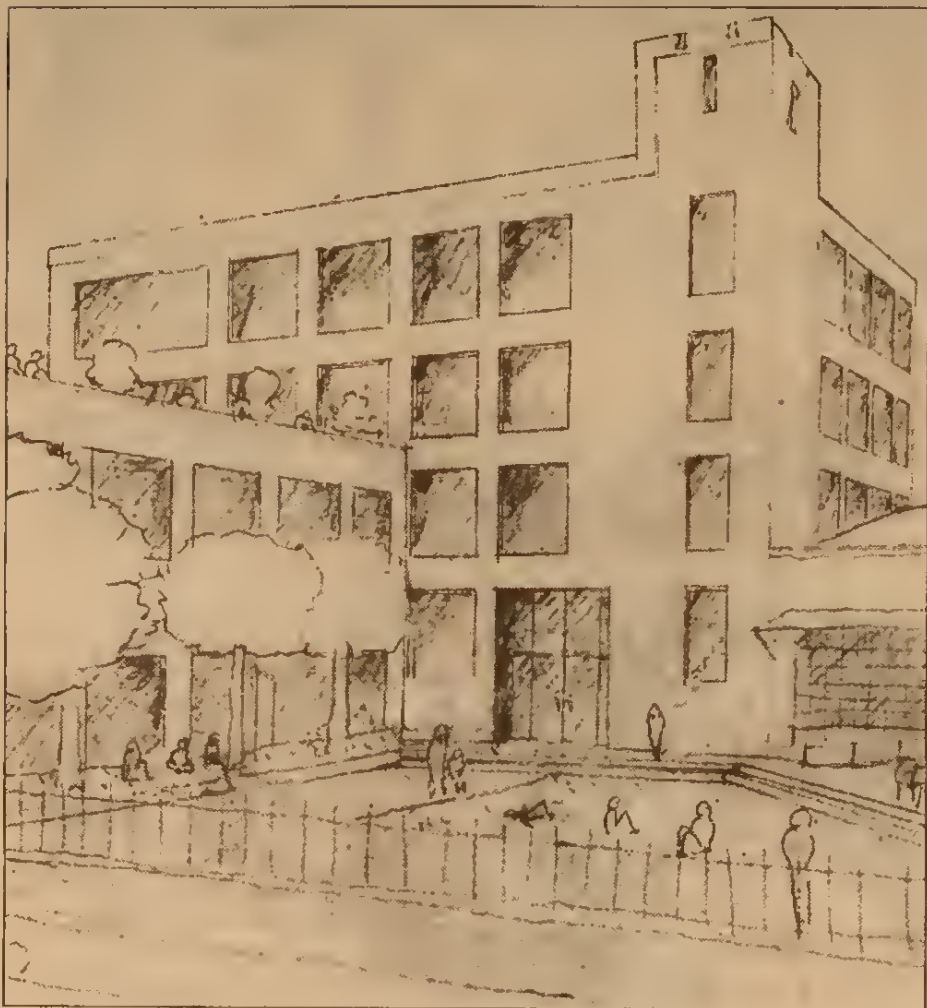
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New College is pursuing the consolidation of its several separate locations into one large space. This is an architect's drawing of one such effort designed by New College Vice President Martin Hamilton which would have included collaboration with Rainbow Grocery and artists live-work housing to be located at 18th and Bryant Streets. This option is no longer available, but other similar possibilities are being explored.

"THE AFRICAN PRESENCE IN THE AMERICAS AND ASIA"

FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT

A Lecture by
Runoko Rashidi



Mandingo head in 14th century Mexico
Made by the Mixtecs from Oaxaca
Josue Saenz collection, Mexico City

Thursday, December 2
at 7:00 PM
New College of California
777 Valencia St. at 19th
Room 109, San Francisco
Donations of \$3-\$10
welcomed

Runoko Rashidi is a cultural historian, writer and lecturer. He has lectured extensively in India, England and throughout the United States. Since 1983 he has been an active member of the Board of Editors and the Board of Directors of the *Journal of African Civilizations*. In 1988 Rashidi edited with Ivan Van Sertima *The African Presence in Early Asia* (New Brunswick: Journal of African Civilizations). One of Rashidi's most recent and comprehensive works, "A Guide to the Study of Classical African Civilization" is available from Kanak House of London, England. In 1990 Rashidi was listed in the Smithsonian Institution's *Directory of African-American Folklorists*.

On October 8, 1987 Rashidi formally inaugurated the "First All India Dalit Writers Conference" in Hyderabad, India, and delivered a major address on "The Global Unity of African People." In 1989 he was appointed United States representative of Dalit Voice: The Voice of the Persecuted Nationalities Denied Human Rights, issuing from New Delhi, India, and published in English, Tamil, Urdu, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi.



IRISH FILM SOCIETY EVENING ON IRISH POLITICAL PRISONERS SUNDAY DECEMBER 12, 7:00 PM. \$5- 10; \$2 FOR NEW COLLEGE

On Sunday December 12, at 777 Valencia Street the Irish Film Society will screen two items - *Counterpoint*: An Ulster documentary about the 1983 escape of 38 prisoners from the Maze Prison. Three of these men are currently in jail in California fighting extradition back to Northern Ireland where their lives would be in jeopardy. A second film, *The Visit*, about the wife of a young political prisoner will also be shown.

A panel including Karen Snell, US Public Defender and attorney for Jimmy Smyth, who is fighting extradition, Martin Nelis and Peter O'Neill will follow the film showings.

LEONARD PELTIER SUPPORT COMMITTEE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT

PRESENTS: CO-INTEL-PRO TODAY
THE FBI'S SECRET WAR

POLICE SPYING, MISINFORMATION, DIRTY TRICKS &
POLITICAL PRISONERS

The FBI'S & San Francisco Police Departments secret war against political dissident movements is not over. In fact, they may be gearing up for a new campaign of repressive tactics to stop the voice of opposition.

WARD CHURCHILL - CO DIRECTOR-COLORADO AIM
AUTHOR OF - CO-INTEL-PRO, AGENTS OF REPRESSION,
STRUGGLE FOR THE LAND, INDIANS ARE US.

MUHAMMAD SHAKIR - CO-COORDINATOR OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO FREE GERONIMO JI JAGA
PRATT

RITA D. BROWN - OUT OF CONTROL-LESBIAN COMMITTEE
TO SUPPORT WOMEN POLITICAL PRISONERS

LUIS TALAMANTEZ - FORMER SAN QUENTIN 6 PRISONER
AND PELICAN BAY DEFENSE COMMITTEE

MAHA JADER - AMERICAN ARAB ANTI DISCRIMINATION
COMMITTEE, COALITION AGAINST POLICE SPYING

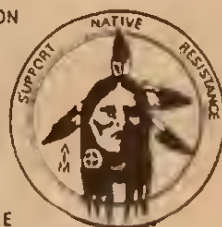
JUDY BART - EARTH FIRST BOMBING VICTIM



FREE LEONARD PELTIER

DECEMBER 4TH 7:00 P.M.

NEW COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA
766 VALENCIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
\$5.00 TO \$10.00 SLIDING SCALE



FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL L.P.S.C., AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT (415) 552-1992



Film : HOPI PROPHECY

On Saturday, December 4, at 1:00 PM, an award winning 75 minute documentary sponsored by Plutonium Free Future & Rainbow Serpent will be screened at the New College Theater, 777 Valencia Street. The destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, prophesied by the Hopi, has been followed by decades of nuclear testing, uranium mining and radioactive waste dumping in the American Southwest. Currently, coal mining in Navajo and Hopi lands are threatening their way of life. As we end the year of Indigenous Peoples, it is fitting for us to listen to the call of the Hopi people to stop the destruction of our earth.

GRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY PROVIDES "SPECIAL FRIENDS" TO ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



by Valentina Zeff

Two years ago, NCOC Graduate Psychology Core Faculty member Pam Miller and Gunilla Napier, a nurse at Leonard Flynn Elementary School, met through a mutual friend, and created a program that has provided 4th and 5th grade Flynn schoolchildren with regular one-on-one friends (in the tradition of Big Brothers & Sisters), while giving New College Graduate Psychology students an opportunity to gain clinical experience and learn more about their own processes of interacting with others.

Leonard Flynn Elementary School is located in the Mission, in an area where poverty and violence are the norm. Most of the children who attend Leonard Flynn live in housing projects, where gun fire, drug dealing and domestic violence surround them constantly. Gunilla, who is affectionately known as "Nurse G.," has been a school nurse for the past four years and has, from the beginning, searched for ways to show children alternatives to violence. She strongly feels that children need to see behavior that does not come from a place of fear and anger, that they need to learn coping skills, and that they need a relatively safe place to try out new ways of communicating. "These kids come to school scared [stiff]," she explained, "I can't tell them not to defend themselves in a dangerous situation—they have to survive—but what I hope that they learn [from the program] is that here at school and in some situations, it is preferable not to use violence, but to use other skills to approach a problem and find a solution. Poverty is like a chain around you—it keeps you ...isolated~ having a special friend allows you to see your options."

The Special Friends program is actually part of the curriculum in Pam Miller's Community Psychology (formerly, Public Therapy) course at New College. In their first or second year, New College Graduate Psychology students are matched with "high risk" Leonard Flynn children, with whom they meet regularly for at least six weeks. The program picks up some of the slack left by the pre-existing, federally-funded P.I.P. (Primary Intervention Program), which serves K-2 grades and does not accept "high-risk" children. The purpose of the weekly meetings is not to provide "therapy sessions," but simply to allow the children the opportunity to get individual attention from a caring, non-threatening adult. Kate Cleaves, a former Grad. Psych. student who participated in the Special Friends program, spent the entire meeting time doing artwork with her school child, Carla. Other New College students have played cards or catch, or have taken their friends to a playground, park or zoo, depending on the child's interests; often the children just like to "hang out" and talk. The point of the program is really to help expand the chil-

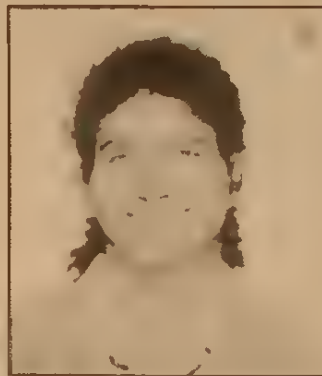
dren's horizons, increase their self-esteem, and to let them experience having a trusting relationship with someone.

New College students meet with Pam several times over the course of the program, and keep journals in which they focus on their personal process, reflect on their interactions with the children, and explore whatever issues arise. Pam stated that, "Learning to interact or just 'be' with a child, especially a child who may initially seem [very hard to get to know], is one of the challenges that New College students work through," and she pointed out that this program is very much an opportunity for them as well as for the children. Kate Cleaves now provides counseling one full day a week at Leonard Flynn, through S.F.U.'s *Mission Possible* internship program. Kate said that Pam Miller's "enthusiasm for community-based therapy" was what initially encouraged her to become involved in Special Friends, and she credited the program for "providing me the foundation for thinking about working with children [as a counselor] in the school setting."

The success of Special Friends is really in great part due to its collaborative nature. Leonard Flynn principal, Franklin Courtade, staff person Diane Bowers, and many other devoted people have put in a lot of time and energy to help implement the program—and it has been very well received by both the children and their parents. When "Nurse G." first contacted parents to have them sign consent forms for their children to be allowed to have a special friend, she was amazed that not a single parent refused to let their child participate. She partly attributes the positive response to the fact that "no one is preaching to [the parents]," and that the program is meant to recognize and help address the fact that when people's lives are "just about trying to survive," all other considerations become secondary.

Though she would like to see more school programs focus on conflict resolution and violence prevention, and more school nurses available in the schools to do the vital advocacy work, Gunilla admits that, "With teachers being laid off due to budget cuts, there is certainly no money for nurses [or for program expansion]." Despite these limitations, she is already planning to integrate a violence prevention and conflict resolution program into the school curriculum, and hopes to be working out the details with Flynn teachers and staff by the end of the school year. At New College, student interest in Special Friends has prompted Pam Miller to contemplate expanding the program to a local junior high school, and she has been working in coalition with other private and public schools in San Francisco to increase children's access to mental health services. Anyone interested in learning more about the Special Friends program can contact Pam Miller, in NCOC's Graduate Psychology Department, at (415) 861-4168.

CALIFORNIA BAR HONORS NEW COLLEGE GRADUATE



by Carl Hayes

New College School of Law graduate Ora Prochovnick received the prestigious President's Pro Bono Service Award from the State Bar of California for 1993. This award gives statewide recognition to lawyers who provide free legal services to the poor.

Prochovnick won the award for the San Francisco district, one of nine districts statewide, for her pro bono work through Bayside Legal Advocates, a woman-owned collective which she is a part owner and one of the founding members.

"For me, it's a combination of feeling good about being recognized by the Bar for the work I do, and frustration that so little is being done to promote pro bono services on the state level," said Prochovnick. "The problem is that this is all they do. I would like to see more attorneys providing pro bono services. I wish the work I do was considered normal, that it was part of being a lawyer."

Prochovnick, who is currently also an instructor at the New College School of Law, was recognized for providing a variety of legal services through the San Francisco Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP).

She has worked with such VLSP programs as the Homeless Advocacy Program, AIDS Legal Referral Program, Landlord/Tenant Training Clinic and the Wills and Powers of Attorney Training Program. She has also worked extensively with lesbian and gay families and police misconduct cases.

"New College was a very supportive place for me during what can be and usually is a very alienating process," said Prochovnick. "The law school helped me go through the process with myself still intact, and they helped me to see and treat my clients as human beings. If it wasn't for New College, I wouldn't have become a lawyer."

Bayside Legal Advocates, now in its tenth year, is located in the Mission District and legal services on a sliding scale based on what their clients can afford, said Prochovnick.

She is now teaching a class at the law school in "real property" which deals with the laws surrounding property ownership. "I have a commitment to the school and consider it a honor to play a part in what's happening there," said Prochovnick.

STATE BAR AWARDS PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS TO NEW COLLEGE STUDENTS

New College is proud to announce that Laura Carcagno and Linda Gonzalez, both School of Law students, have been selected by the State Bar Foundation to receive \$2500 scholarships in recognition of their exemplary academic achievement and commitment to public interest law.

One of the key criteria for this scholarship, according to the State Bar Foundation, is to "select students who have demonstrated a commitment to public service throughout their lives, as well as during their time in



school."

"It is rewarding to see such committed and talented law students receive this recognition," said Chris Kanios, New College Dean. "We are very proud of their accomplishments and hope their example inspires others to pursue public interest law careers."

Carcagno, a second year law student, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UC Berkeley with a degree in linguistics. She worked as a vocational consultant before law school and is now continuing her apprenticeship with Solano County Legal Assistance in Vallejo. Earlier this year, Carcagno was chosen as one of two law clerks funded by the newly established California Legal Corps for her work with Solano County Legal Assistance.

Gonzalez, a third year law student, holds a BA from UCLA, and a masters in Social Work from San Jose State University. She has worked as a drug and alcohol counselor, specializing in developing materials and trainings for specific groups including Asian Americans, Latinos, African Americans, Native Americans, people with disabilities, women, youth and the elderly. She continues to serve as a multicultural consultant, and providing trainings to community organizations, schools and private groups. Gonzalez has completed clerkships with Brooklyn Legal Services and the Haitian Law Project, and is now working with voting rights attorney Joaquin Avila.

Carcagno and Gonzalez were honored at a special reception of the State Bar Convention in San Diego in October. These awards were conferred upon only seven law students statewide and New College was the only school with more than one honoree.

December Events

DEC. 1

Preview/Reception for **WHEN THE RAIN FALLS**
a play written and directed by
New College student Tara Nichole Youngblood.
Other shows December 2 & 3. All shows at 8 PM.

DEC. 3

CAFE ARTS MONTH RECEPTION AND READINGS

with special guest Cafe Arts Month
coordinator Neeli Cherkovski. 6-8 pm. Free.

DEC. 4

POETICS BASH

End of semester Poetics Open reading
at the Chamelon Club 853 Valencia
Sat 7pm

DEC. 4&5

RHODESSA JONES

Student Presentations
Call 821.3538
Sat 8pm/Sun 2pm

DEC. 6

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SURREALIST POET WILL ALEXANDER.

7:30 pm

DEC. 9

UNDERGRADUATE ENCUESTRO

Call 626-0884.

DEC. 10

GRADUATE ENCUESTRO

RECEPTION 6:30-7:30PM, SCREENINGS &
PERFORMANCES AT 7:30-10:00PM
777 VALENCIA ST.
Call 626-0884.

DEC. 11&12

VICTORIA RUE

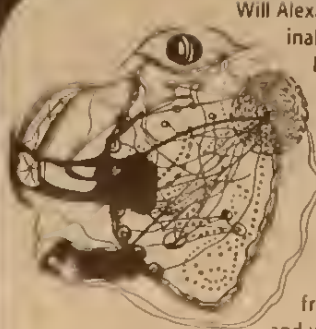
Student Presentations
Call 626-0884.

DEC. 12

IRISH FILM SOCIETY PRESENTATION

The Maze Prison Breakout with panel including Karen
Snell, Attorney for Jimmy Smyth.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN SURREALIST POET WILL ALEXANDER



Will Alexander is a major inheritor of the Afro-imaginal tradition of Aimé Césaire and Joseph Rabearivelo, as well as of poets like Lautréamont, Artaud, and André Breton. But his work is also close to the improvisatory modes of Bob Kaufman and Jayne Cortez, and draws on a deep knowledge of African-American musical history. Eliot Weinberger calls Alexander "an ecstatic surrealist on imaginal hyperdrive... His ecstasy derives from the scientific description of the stuff and workings of the world. His erudition and vocabulary are vast... No subject seems alien to him."

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 7:30 PM.
FREE AT NEW COLLEGE
766 VALENCIA ST. • SAN FRANCISCO

Sponsored by the New College Poetics Program
For further information call (415) 626-0884

Also

Cafe Arts Month Reception:

* FRI. DEC. 3, 6-8pm *

777 Valencia St., Info: (415)282.2471

&

THE HUMANITIES ARTS & SOCIAL CHANGE PROGRAM PRESENTS

"When The Rain Falls"

A student play written and directed by Tara Nicole Youngblood;

* WED. DEC. 1-3, sliding scale, 8pm *

Reception to follow preview: 777 Valencia St. SF, Info: (415) 255-4837

"The Dismembered Heart"

Creative Survival: Performance Seminar
taught by Rhodessa Jones, Two days of solo performances

* SAT. DEC. 4, 8pm & SUN. DEC. 5, 2pm *

\$5 General admission, \$2 Students w/ID, 777 Valencia St. SF, Info (415)821.3538

OPEN HOUSE OATES & PROGRAMS AT NEW COLLEGE

THE WEEKEND COLLEGE

One-Year Humanities B.A. Degree Completion Program

* INFORMATION MEETINGS: EVERY SATURDAY, 10:30am *

777 Valencia St. SF (415)241.1362

THE GRADUATE PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

Feminist/Social-clinical Concentrations

* OPEN HOUSE: MON. DEC. 13, 6:30-8pm *

777 Valencia St. SF (415)861.4168

THE HUMANITIES B.A. PROGRAM

Interdisciplinary/Activist Perspective

* OPEN HOUSE: TUES. DEC. 14, 7pm *

766 Valencia St. SF (415)626.0884

INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS & SOCIAL CHANGE, MA PROGRAM

Performance Studies/Video Arts/Visual Arts

* OPEN HOUSE: WED. DEC. 15, 7pm *

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BACHELOR OF ARFS



Photo by Eugene Kettner

These SPCA Hearing Dog Program graduates got acquainted after the commencement ceremony on October 30th. All eleven canines who completed their training received individual diplomas from the SPCA staff. The dogs notify their deaf and hearing impaired

owners of ringing telephones, doorbells, cooking timers and fire alarms. Training costs are covered by the SPCA. NO!, this event was not held at Dog Eared Books it was held at the SPCA. For more information call 554-3020 or the TDD line at 554-3022.

AID THE PARADE

The 24th St. Christmas Parade, one of the Mission's mellowest events, will be held on Saturday, December 18th. The begins at 8:30 a.m. at 24th and Mission and proceeds down 24th to Alabama St. The traditional Xmas toy giveaway will then take place in St. Peter's Parking lot on Alabama between 24th and

25th. This year parade organizers have received over 3000 requests for Toys far exceeding donations to date. If you can, drop off an unwrapped toy at the Mission Red Cross Office at 810 Valencia. Call 206-7940 for more information.

Blondies Bar & NO GRILL



A Casmapalltan Neighborhood Bar In The Heart Of San Francisco's New Bohemia

540 Valencia Street (between 16th & 17th St.), San Francisco
864-2419 • Open everyday until 2 am

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
VICTOR MILLER

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
LAUREN HIRSHSON

WRITERS: Ana Murillo, Clare Knight, Kathleen Baca, George Abry, D. Michael Spero, Lisa Hamburger, Juan Oyarzun, Robert Leaver, Andy Solow, Sally McMullen, Jacqueline Letalien, Frank Deadbeat, Victor Miller, Lauren Hirshson, Carla de Luca

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ARTS CONSULTANT: MARIO JOEL

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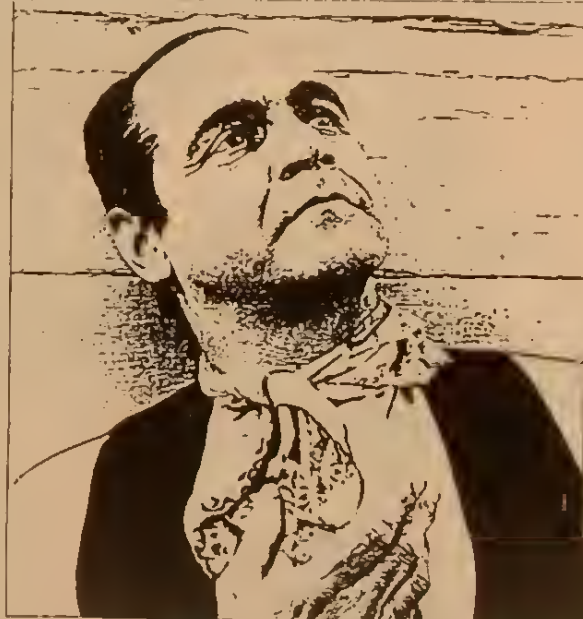
RENE ARIZA LANZA NUEVO LIBRO DE POESIA

El poeta y actor cubano René Ariza dará a conocer su nuevo libro bilingüe, "Escrito Hasta En Los Bordes".

Ariza interpretará sus poemas con el acompañamiento musical del chileno Mauricio Bertin. El libro, autografiado por el autor, estará a la venta la noche de la presentación. Refrescos y bocadillos - ENTRADA GRATIS

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A MAJORITY OF JUAN

WELFARE SANITY

By Juan Oyarzun

Current fiscal reality put San Francisco in a very difficult situation when it comes to welfare reform. We must balance the budget and at the same time to assist nearly 16,000 General Assistance recipients. The City spends more than \$55 million on General Assistance; it is widely believed that there are about 3,000 homeless recipients to whom we are constantly trying to provide adequate services such as housing, health, mental health, food and various training programs.

The reality is that we have some 8,000 to 12,000 homeless, and that many more people live in substandard housing. Through the Social Service Commission we are going to try to establish a Bay Area-wide "Homeless Policy" for Northern California, which will try to deal with the problem once and for all. The "magnet theory" (that providing better services means attracting more homeless people) needs to be addressed, and we need to stop our denial of the homeless problem. This is a citywide problem that requires citywide participation, not just that of the Mission, South of Market and the Tenderloin.

We have not developed a comprehensive statewide policy on the homeless issue; not seeing the root of the problem, we are spending our money on treating the symptoms. It is hard to address the economy, create jobs, provide residential treatment centers that will actually treat people (or even find a neighborhood that will permit a treatment center in its back yard), develop a place to house and treat the chronically mentally ill in a humane manner.

We need to attract companies to our state that will invest in our economy. We need to focus on education, prevention and early intervention, creating a strong safety net for people. We need to strengthen our support systems and extended family and create a new family, a non co-dependent, non-abusive, loving family. We need to surround ourselves with caring, significant others.

How do we convince people that if we treat the symptoms of the problem, we are pouring money down the drain? An example: If a patient went to a doctor for a 102.9 degree fever, would the doctor treat the fever or find out if she had a viral, bacterial or other infection? Sure, she would get aspirin for the fever, but if the infection were bacterial, antibiotics would follow. The same approach needs to be applied to this complex socio-economical phenomenon. In the United States, we have some of the best minds in the world, able to create models and solutions to other countries' economic problems. But can you explain to me: In God's name, why do we have such

terrible homeless policies in the inner cities throughout this great country of ours?

One approach: We should try to do an aggressive outreach to all the residential hotels in San Francisco that are willing to help solve the problem. We need to find hotels outside of the Tenderloin, South of Market and the Mission, three areas that are oversaturated with the homeless population — which needs lots of, time, attention and support services.

I am very optimistic that at last, the City is getting some space from CalTrans buildings at a \$1-a-year lease to house the homeless and to develop space for Multi-Service Centers. One wonders, why did the State take so long to act?

Through the Social Services Commission and the Drug Abuse Advisory Board, through the Mayor's Mission Task Force and the Juvenile Justice Task Force, I will push for treatment of the problem by addressing the causes, not just the symptoms. At times it will be neither pleasant nor politically correct, but that's the nature of our state. People from the community need to take a stance and push for a statewide policy on the homeless issue.

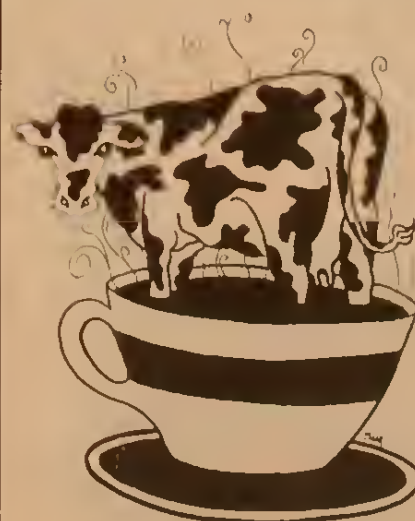
The UCSF Potential

It is encouraging to see the potential development of the North East Mission Industrial Zone. If UCSF develops an area in the Mission to expand their research space, what kind of opportunity would that create for Biotech, light industry, jobs, live/work space and much-needed affordable housing? This is exactly the kind of project this City needs to jump-start the local economy. By increasing the City's tax base, bringing more jobs to this depressed area and working with the local community groups, this plan might just become a reality in the next few years.

The project could create a Biotech High School near the UCSF expansion area to serve local youth, in conjunction with the school district. The school board is very excited about this model that could produce the graduate students and researchers of tomorrow.

Another potential benefit for NEMIZ residents is that UCSF is willing to train foreign medical graduates, if the state legislation is introduced to support these programs. Foreign dental, medical, pharmacy and Ph.D. graduates may qualify.

Juan Oyarzun is a recently appointed member of the City's Social Service Commission.



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WHAT'S NEW IN HEALTH- CARE

RX FOR ARTHRITIS



by Sally McMullen, L.Ac., D.N.B.A.O.

"How Much Acupuncture Will I Need for Painful Joints?"

This is hard to answer. The following case sheds light on this question.

Arthritis: A Study

Ellen, a 39-year-old woman who was suffering from arthritis, came to me on the advice of her mother. (I had treated the mother for sciatica.) Ellen hadn't had acupuncture before.

She complained of numbness and stiffness in several joints. Pain in her knees made it difficult for her to walk.

Her secondary complaints were that she usually felt tired, and she had lost sleep due to joint discomfort. She had experienced these pains for about four years.

According to Traditional Chinese Medicine, her joint pains were due to **Wind-Chill-Numbness**, known in Western medicine as arthritis. The goal of her treatment was to "Open the Acupuncture Channels" in the painful areas in order to "Spread the Qi (energy) and Blood."

A week later, she reported that the first acupuncture treatment had pleased her. She felt relaxed afterwards, and she experienced a decrease in pain. She thought that acupuncture might help her.

So, I did a second treatment and prescribed herbal supplements for her. The herbs helped to stop pain, strengthen her bones and tendons, warm her body, and increase her energy.

A week later she reported that her pains weren't as sharp as before. This success was attributed to acupuncture and the herbal tea, which she drank during the week. Obviously, she was improving.

By her fourth visit she was even jogging a

bit. She didn't feel chronically chilled anymore. No miracles had occurred, but there seemed to be a steady improvement.

Sixth visit: NO SIGN OR SYMPTOM OF JOINT PAIN! I don't know who was more pleased, me or Ellen. As an added bonus, she felt more relaxed in general and was more energetic. The feeling of being more emotionally stable and having more energy was an unexpected benefit, since her only concern when she started treatment was to have less pain.

Ellen had had joint pain and stiffness for four years; consequently, I thought she would need more than six treatments to get better. Of course, I was as happy as she was that she had such a quick recovery. Not everyone responds this fast.

During the next four months Ellen had "twinges" of pain, and she got two more treatments. Ten months later I called her to see how she was doing, and she was still pain free.

Of prime importance to the outcome of any problem is that the patient **follow through** with the treatments. Slowly Ellen developed confidence in what I was doing. I had successfully treated her mother for sciatica. Since she knew someone who had good results from acupuncture she slowly developed trust. (After all, Chinese medicine and acupuncture are completely foreign to many Americans.) Ellen's faith enabled her to follow through.

Complaints of painful joints are seen in arthritis, frozen shoulder, bursitis, tendinitis, and gout. Acupuncture and Chinese herbs can be very effective in treating each of these conditions. Furthermore, the pain relief can be long lasting, as seen in this case.

If you have questions or would like a free phone consultation, please call Sally McMullen, L.Ac., D.N.B.A.O. at 550-7732.



Editor:

Re: Mission Hotel/ October Editorial; a few facts:

The Mission Hotel has up to 250 tenants at any given time. Among those have been people placed there by the Red Cross, people discharged from hospitals (known as the hot line program), and those referred by other agencies. There are also a number of elderly tenants who have mainly been more than model tenants. But there are also those who reflect the problems of this area - either as tenants or unwanted trespassers. I refer specifically to people who abuse drugs.

Two of the deaths Mr. Miller refers to were from drug overdose. (the others included heart attack and cirrhosis - both in elderly men) The ambulance has been called too many times for people who have overdosed (these are the 9 - "attempted suicides" Mr. Miller refers to - unless he has information I am unaware of).

The statistics Mr. Miller cites from the police have a different impact when described as:

60 fights or disputes = 6 arguments a month

34 assaults and battery = 3.7 fights a month

This is over a 9 month period among 250 people, some of whom abuse drugs or alcohol.

Mr. Miller's main article is on Mr. Charles Patel, who does not run the Mission Hotel. I feel he has distorted the facts about the hotel as he has neglected to mention the Mr. Patel has run or been associated with 32 hotels over 15 years - renting to innumerable people. It is fact that during that entire time there was 1 fatal fire engulfing a building. This is not to exonerate any abuse of fire laws by anybody. 365 days a year for 15 years = 1 fatal fire.

I wish Mr. Miller would express some rage and indignation about the arsonists - including the one who destroyed the Dolores Street Baptist Church.

Sincerely, B. Gardner

Editor:

I had to get a big laugh when I read your headline "Matrix Program proves Fatal". The article make it clear this headline should read "Booze Proves Fatal to Illegal Immigrant". If this poor fellow had stayed in the beautiful city of Guadalajara, he probably would have remained in the bosom of his family, with a home and a reason for living other than sweet wine.

Instead, your newspaper is blaming the people of San Francisco, who only want a little relief from the vagrancy problem epidemic in the City of St. Francis. The implied threat at the end of the article - "Maybe I sell drugs" - does a disservice to illegal immigrants, the homeless, and to your readers.

Anyone who lives in the downtown/Mission area knows that many illegal Latino immigrants are both homeless and selling drugs. To imply that the "Matrix Program" is causing this behavior is taking an ignorant and deceptive view of reality and human nature. A newspaper has to have a sense of responsibility to its readers.

If you wish to publish an activist paper with its slanted and biased "reporting", don't call it "News". Call it bullshit. Do you have the guts to print this letter? Do you have the guts to print any letters to the editor? Do you even have the guts to put the names of the newspaper staff and publisher in print?

Sincerely, R. Lopez



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AMIRA IS ADMIRABLE

by George Ahry

For the diversity of its restaurants and the richness of its culture, Valencia Street has few equals in the Bay Area. Whether it's Chinese you're in the mood for, gourmet Italian, Greek, seafood, just plain pizza, bagels or any one of a thousand versions of Mexican, it will be within walking distance along Valencia.

A major new player that promises to stand straight and tall in the face of so much culinary competition has recently joined this multicultural fold. Amira's Pan Arabic Cuisine, however, is not simply along for the ride. Its mission is to correct the scarcity of Middle Eastern restaurants throughout the City.

Although the emphasis will be on Moroccan food, the menu will include an ambitious array of dishes from all over the Mediterranean, including Syria, Turkey and Lebanon. Amira offers a cultural variety one could not expect from lesser Arabian eateries.

In addition to a wide variety of Arabic food alternatives, owner Azzam Shibli is also promising live entertainment, which will probably begin early next month.

"Part of the Amira dining experience will be exotic belly dancers. But also live musicians, with a variety of different backgrounds as well," Shibli says. But the entertainment is still in the planning stages, and probably won't be expected for another month or so.

Shibli is best known for his association with Cafe Istanbul, also on Valencia. But he is quick to point out that Amira is in no way affiliated with Istanbul on either a managerial or culinary basis. "We will be offering a much wider range, as far as food and entertainment. I don't think you see this anywhere else."

This should all blend well with the Arabian atmosphere and Mid-Eastern decor. Al-

though half of the restaurant is a traditional table-and-chairs area for more reserved customers, the rest is reminiscent of a Sultan's palace. The walls are stone and engraved with Arabic masks and symbols. Big columns extend from floor to ceiling. Two sections of the restaurant are cordoned off by a raised stone wall, which is reached by mounting a few small steps. In these sections, a large semicircular pillow couch surrounds two low tables with candles. The sofas are luxurious and covered with big velvet pillows of gold, maroon and blue. The back wall of one of these harem sections is sky blue, giving diners the impression of being in an open air Moroccan temple.

It is the strong emphasis on variety that ultimately makes the dining experience uniquely Pan Arabic. For starters I had a maza plate of hummus, tabouli and falafel (\$3.95). This is an assortment of deep fried ground vegetables mixed with ground chickpeas and blended with tahini, garlic, lemon and other spices. It is delicious and a fine introduction to Amira's. For dinner I had chicken couscous al pasha (\$8.95), a Moroccan dish served with vegetables and tomato tahini salad and pita. It was excellent and very filling as well. At the end of my meal, stuffed, I passed on desert and opted for a cup of Mid-Eastern espresso instead.

For dinner, my companion tried one of the Buri sandwich plates. She had the vegetarian gyro (\$5.95) which consists of marinated seitan marinated with green peppers, onions & spices, served with olive and cucumber yogurt salad. Seitan is a tasty low-fat Moroccan meat substitute made from gluten flour. I had a bite of it and it was rich and superb. It was a welcome alternative to the traditional Greek Gyro which is pallid in comparison. And I would recommend it for those on a low



Photo by Josef Pupava

fat/cholesterol diet.

Some of the other gourmet options include Turkish eggplant (\$6.95): eggplant sauteed in spicy tomato sauce served over Persian rice; Lamb kebab (\$8.95) marinated pieces of lamb skewered with vegetables served on a bed of Persian rice with a choice of hummus, babag-noush or one of several salad options; and Libyan chicken (\$7.95): tender pieces of chicken blended with cumin, black pepper, lemon-served on a bed of Persian rice with tomato salad, pita and choice of hummus or babag-noush.

I asked Shibli if he thought this type of cuisine would hold up in the Mission, and he seemed confident it would. "The area is still very multicultural. And I think it will add a bit of a variety to the area, and I think the people will like that," he said thoughtfully.

If you're in the neighborhood for the afternoon, don't hesitate to stop in for lunch, because the lunch menu is just as ambitious and surprisingly inexpensive.

Amira is located on 590 Valencia St. at 17th.



Photo by Alvaro Lagos

an art exhibition by

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BAH HUM BUG



WHY I HATE X-MAS

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HARPSOMANIA

DEDICATED AND DAUNTLESS BARBARA IMHOFF IS FEATURED IN FESTIVAL OF HARPS

by Carla M. De Luca

It was love at first sight. Just a glance through a window, and they became inseparable. But when pianist Barbara Imhoff moved into a university music room to be closer to the harp that enchanted her, her life changed. "

I just brought in a cot and camped out there," Imhoff said, still amused by the compulsive act that began her career. "The janitors knew I lived there. They used to bring me sandwiches."

Known for such intense devotion to her harp, Imhoff said she was offered a teaching post at the University of California at Santa Barbara upon graduation. Now a highly acclaimed harpist and composer who performs at international festivals, the 44 year old Mission resident, born in Long Beach, California, spends only two hours each day practicing. Composing, recording, and writing for the magazine Mondo 2000 fill her days, leaving her little quite time to prepare for the numerous concert gigs that occupy her nights.

A principal harpist for ten years with the Oakland Symphony, Ballet, and Opera, the Berkeley Symphony and the Women's Philharmonic, the self-taught artist brought her classical training to avant garde theater groups in the late 70's. She worked for five years with George Coates Performance Works and Elbows Akimbo, and has collaborated with pop singer Toni Childs, rock guitarist Ronnie Montrose and many other well-known performers. This month, two of her recordings will be released. One is a collaboration with electronic vocalist Pamela Z on Starkland Records, and the other features her current group,

Beasts of Paradise, on the City of Tribes label. Beasts of Paradise, which she classifies as "global alternative pop," is formed by Stephen Kent, who plays the didgeridoo, an exotic wind instrument, and vocalist Eda



Harpist Barbara Imhoff.

Photo by Josef Pupava

Maxym and Kalonica McQuesten.

One Dec. 15, Kent will join Imhoff and six other harpists in the Festival of Harps at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Touted as the only one of its kind in the United States, the festival will unite an array of acoustic and electric harp styles including the Celtic, African, Peruvian, Chinese and Italian cultures. During her 15 minute performance, Imhoff and Kent will play one of her original works, "Bela," a pop tribute she wrote to Bela Bartok one of her favorite classical composers. "When I was a classical musician, I played to excel, to play the right notes, to get that job and to keep that job," said Imhoff, reflecting on her switch to alternative music. "But now I per-

form my own music to communicate. It's a means of getting something back, starting a flow between me and the audience."

Imhoff said her primary motivation for composing comes from her desire to shock audiences by taking the harp, known in a traditional context, into contemporary genres. Performing a variety of cover songs and original works, Imhoff said she especially enjoys playing traditional ethnic music from different cultures and giving it her own twist. "I want to break through the barrier of the 'daunting harp' that intimidates people," said Imhoff. "When people see a harp, they are afraid to come up and touch it."

It's easy to see why after you've looked at

Imhoff's classical pedal harp. Laden with gold, the imposing instrument was made in 1917 and has a resale value of \$25,000. While she may not get them on stage, Imhoff often moves audience members to tears. She describes her music as gothic and haunting, revealing her tumultuous life of drug and alcohol addiction. Sixteen years ago, at her lowest point, Imhoff painfully remembers the day she checked herself into an Oakland rehabilitation center.

"I woke up inside a Dempsey dumpster in a strange town with no shoes," she said. "When I walked into the center, the nurses told me if I had had another drug or drink I would have been dead. I've been sober ever since." Imhoff attributes her recovery primarily to her desire to play music. "Music is keeping me alive," she said. "If I didn't have it, I'd go right back to drinking and doing drugs."

Imhoff also feels grateful to have found such a supportive artistic community in San Francisco, particularly in the colony of artists in the Mission where she has lived for six years. "Here, I could rehearse all night if I wanted to, and people not only wouldn't mind, they'd ask me to turn it up."

Though she said her career might benefit by living in Los Angeles "near the labels," Imhoff doesn't want to leave San Francisco - and really has no reason to. Sought out for her unique talents and uncommon instrument, Imhoff can boast she is one of a few constantly working musicians in the Bay Area. In December alone, she is booked for more than 20 performances, ranging from her usual stops at Radio Valencia and Cafe Beano to Grace Cathedral and the Oakland Ballet.

An avid lover of nature, Imhoff plans to tour the Pacific Northwest this spring. Ironically, the only thing she dreads is bringing her harp. "I hate lugging it around on the cart," she said, as she sat relaxing with cat Telulah on her lap. "That's the hardest thing I do."

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COVER MODEL VS. KILLER MARKETING

by Victor Miller

At a time when tremendous public resources are focused on combating the health and social consequences of illegal drug use, the legalized drug industry continues to aggressively and successfully market its products. Billboards promoting fortified malt liquors, designed to appeal to the machismo of young men, are an ever present part of the inner city scene. (Also the frequent target of billboard vigilantes.) Joe Camel exuding a street wise coolness and generating a variety of accessory items such as hats shirts and coffee cups is designed to appeal to the younger set of boys. Joe has become a sort of nicotine action figure. (Some kids are wising up though. See "Jail Joe Camel" on page 12.)

But the biggest advances being made by licit drug dealers are in convincing young women to take up the cigarette habit. Young women under the age of 23 are now the fastest growing group of smokers in the country. Not surprisingly lung cancer, not breast cancer, is the leader in cancer-caused deaths in women.

The tobacco industry, which spends \$4 billion annually on advertising, has spent prodigiously to reach this market. Glamour Magazine, one-fourth of whose readers are girls under 18, received \$6.3 million in tobacco advertising revenues in a single year. By investing big advertising dollars in style and fashion publications tobacco companies hope the younger generation of women will grow up associating sophistication, stylishness and smoking.

As the statistics show its been an effective approach. No one knows this better than Janet Sackman once the tobacco industry's top model now one of its most vociferous critics as she struggles not to become one of its millions of fatalities.

In 1946 at the age of 14, Janet Sackman was discovered by a talent scout on a New York beach. Her tall athletic good looks made her an over night success in the modeling world. Within a few years she was on the covers of Vogue, Life and Look. During a stint doing cigarette advertisements for magazines an executive with the Liggett and Myers tobacco company told Sackman her poses didn't look



Janet Sackman in 1993 (above) and in a 1949 Lucky Strike ad that ran in the Saturday Evening Post.

authentic enough. His suggested, for the good of her career, that Sackman learn how to smoke. This was the beginning of a 34-year, pack-and-a-half a day habit that ended in 1983 when Sackman developed throat cancer which necessitated the removal of her larynx.

Sackman has since mastered the art of esophageal speech, whereby air is swallowed and then forced up the esophagus to form words, and undertaken a world wide anti-cigarette speaking tour.

Women and Girls Against Tobacco (WAGAT) a Bay area group seeking to eliminate tobacco company sponsorship of women's and girl's organizations and end tobacco advertising in women oriented publications, sponsored a recent San Francisco press conference where Sackman told her story.

Sackman a robust and surprisingly young looking woman still has the poise and carriage of a professional model and the easy good humor of someone comfortable being the center of attention. She said that when she took up the suggestion to learn how to smoke

as a career move in 1949, the same year she posed for the Lucky Strike ski ad people were generally ignorant of the risks of smoking. For women smoking and fashion were one in the same thing. "Style in my day consisted of wearing a big floppy hat, seamed stockings and having a cigarette in your mouth." Sackman said. "We just had no idea; I mean I have always been a health conscious person but I became an addict." The addiction exacted a heavy toll; in 1990, seven years after her laryngectomy, a cancerous tumor was removed from her right lung.

Referring to the rough flat tone of her esophageal speaking voice, she exhibits a gutsy humor: "Well, I finally lost my Bronx accent." But when she looks at the audience and tells them "I didn't even inhale and I still wound up like this," there is an unmistakable anger in the eyes of this woman who will spend the rest of her life breathing through a hole in her neck.

Sackman has a law suit pending against Chesterfield cigarette maker, the Liggett Group. She teaches esophageal speech, testifies at public hearings on tobacco regulation and works in a number of volunteer positions for the American Cancer Society. She is quite a courageous woman, fighting back by using the grace and charm of a former cover girl to unsell the product whose "authentic" promotion devastated her life.

Janet Sackman may reach a lot of people but obviously the cigarette companies are reaching a lot more. WAGAT would like them to reach a whole lot less and has launched a campaign to eliminate tobacco ads in Glamour, People and Essence, three magazines with a high female readership. For more information on this call WAGAT at (510) 841-6434.



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WOMEN'S KULTURE KLATCH

LET IT BURN

by Jacqueline Elizabeth Letalien

The system of patriarchal nation state governments is an attractive house. In democracy everyone expresses an opinion through voting, petition, demonstration. With communism everyone participates in the common good. In either case the system of rule says in the respective ideologies that it is the people who rule.

I attended a fundraiser dinner for Vanguard Foundation which funds "progressive" organizations. The organizations it has supported have been created by the people, ordinary folks with a gripe or a vision. Largely these organizations struggle for justice, equity, inclusion in the system. Vanguard compliments itself for coming from the radical, social change movement of the sixties into being a progressive institution. They invite several celebrities to mark the occasion.

Harry Belafonte tells a story about Martin Luther King, Jr. who, at a gathering in circumstances that should have been cause for joviality, was pensive and agitated. When asked what was the cause of his subdued state, Martin said that with all the hard work that he had been done in the various rights movements of the time, he feared that we were working to integrate into a burning house.

The system does not, will not, has not ever supported the people. Not one ideology has altered the basic patriarchal premise of power-over. To placate people when we clamor for our rights, all the system has to do is periodically change some doo-dad on the facade to

give the impression that change has occurred. This system is based on the Machiavellian principle that since the people never get inside the institution in great enough numbers to radically alter it, these minor cosmetic changes will tranquilize the people enough so that we do not have the fervor to tear down the house. It works. It has worked for centuries.

Recently, I have been caught up in that tranquilization. There's Hilary. There's Clinton adding Latino, African American, women to the visible facade of our government. I watch with fascination, curiosity, even approval. Hey, they're making an attempt. Democratic principles are so ingrained in me that I still hope the system will take responsibility and change all the way to its core. I want to celebrate the integration.

Then once in a while someone like Harry, or the punk dykes, or Dolores Huerta will remind me that we are integrating into a burning house. Roberta Achtenberg who is still new and not yet consumed by the system bears witness that if the diverse people's communities could come together, it would be so powerful as to bring the roof down.

And it must come down. Mayor Jordan says he will not confiscate shopping carts of the homeless and then the police proceed to confiscate. Dolores Huerta has to go to Washington to tell a House Committee why they should not take away public assistance funding for legal immigrants, or Coca Cola why they must not dissolve a 22 year old union contract for farmworkers in Florida.

The patriarchal roof must come down.



This Crematorium fronting as governmental institution destroys any who enter. Ron Delums, the man of peace, supports having troops in Somalia; Clarence Thomas is turned into a self hater and woman abuser. This patriarchal system has even poisoned what precious little life is left in Aboriginal culture to the extent of encouraging genocide, infanticide, gynocide. As Alice Walker pointed out, at the Vanguard celebration and thereby "spoiling" our \$150 a plate dinner, genital mutilation of 100,000,000 women is one example of the insidious patriarchal poisoning of even our ancestors' traditions. We do the Man's work of killing ourselves and since we have done it for so long, we call it tradition.

Joan Bacz is there, too. Her mere presence reminds us of the singular, solitary journey she has taken year after year as the

witness who tells us over and over, pay attention to the means we use to tear down the house. Whoopi Goldberg was there to tell us she is a princess from the Projects, to succinctly point out the self knowing paradox of and hint at the dangers of becoming a part of the system.

The patriarchal system disenfranchises us, separates us from our her-tage, morality, integrity. It diminishes our dreams, shortsights our visions, belittles our purposes. Harry asks that since the system is not doing well anywhere, why are we still talking to them? If the system cannot do what must be done, and there is plenty of centuries old evidence that it cannot not, then we must dismiss and replace it with an entirely new vision.

Let the house burn down.

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MISSION DISTRICT CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3

Legalized Pot- and other handmade ceramic items ranging in price from \$2 to \$100 will be on sale at the Clay Studio's annual Holiday Sale through December 22nd. Clay Studio 52 Julian Monday - Saturday 10-5. Call 431-6296.

The Write Stuff - Our copy editor Lauren's 27th birthday. Her efforts have reduced the number of typos and made for grammar that reads good and even better.

Class Action - Tenor Mark Hernandez and pianist Kristin Pankonin perform classical Spanish art songs by Falla, Mom-pou, Guastavino and others. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 8:00 p.m., free. Call 647-6015.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

The Shirts Off Their Backs - 100 artist original tee shirts and 15 original jean jackets will be auctioned off at a celebrity fashion show featuring Beth Custer, Nao Bustamante and others. Live music, hors d'oeuvres, and no host cocktails. A benefit for Intersection for the Arts. Centro de Pueblo 2nd floor, 474 Valencia, Auction Preview 5:00 p.m., Fashion Show/Auction 6:30, \$5-35. Call 626-2787.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5

Now That's Chile! - The best in Chilean verse and song from poet Fernando Alegria and musician Rafael Manriquez. Pena del Sur 2870-A 22nd St., 6 p.m., \$5. Call 550-1101.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6

Monday Martian Mania - Performance art by Lee Brady, Victoria Doggett, Jennifer Joy Pawlitschek, and Mark Roth. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$6. Call 641-0235.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Tunes for Tots - Sing Along for kids with Jose Luis Orozco at the Mission Branch Library 3359 24th St., 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., free. Call 695-5090. Groups please make reservations.

Cutting Edge Technology or Crackpot Economics? - The Mayor's Taskforce on the Mission will hold a public hearing on the proposed rezoning of the Mission's Northeast Industrial Zone as a Bioscience only area. Cesar Chavez School 825 Shotwell St., 7p.m.

Three Wordsmithresses - Noted poets Denise Harvey, Diane Di Prima, and Janice Mirikitani read their work at Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Is Nothing Sacred? - "A Karen Carpenter Christmas" is more existential than a Perry Como Xmas special, more animated than the Grinch, less bombastic than "It's A Wonderful Life" and the seasonal choice of the irreverent theater going set. Some of the humor is a little slim

but at least they're enough to send up the very best. The Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$12. Call 641-0235. Performances Dec. 8-12, 15-19, 21-24, 26-30. Late night shows at 10:30 on the 11th 18th and 24th.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9

When Good Laws Happen To Bad People - Banned professor Pauline Bart talks about rape law reform. Old Wives Tales 1009 Valencia, 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

Funny You Don't Look Bluish - For that matter neither does the room, nevertheless the Blue Room Boys play the blues for free at Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St., 6:30 p.m. Call 826-1199. Also on the 17th.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

Parranda Navidena\Christmas Parang Parti - Experience the Christmas season as celebrated in the English and Spanish speaking countries of the Caribbean with live jibara\salsa music by Conjunto Alegre, the All Ah We Dance Posse and dj Sweet Waist. Anastacia Dance Studios 587 Shotwell St., 9:00 p.m., \$8 advance at Round World Records 593 Guerrero St., \$10 at the door. Call 510-832-8110 or 415-677-3721.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Two Wongs Make It Right - It being chamber music, Chinese and Eastern music performed by advanced students of instructors Betty Wong and Shirley Wong-Frentzel. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 4:00 p.m., free. Call 647-6015.

General Delivery from Guatemala - Direct from Guatemala, Grupo Canto General six talented exponents of the Latin American New Song Movement live and on stage at Pena del Sur 2870-A 22nd St. 5 p.m., \$10. Call 550-1101.

In the Zone - a reception for Mike (Pig Whistle) Mosher's "Biotechnology Zone" an installation on the walls of A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 6 to 8 p.m., free.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13

All in All I'd Rather Be Having Sex - But if you're not and you have the evening free you can see this and other performance art pieces by Tommi Avicelli Mecca, Victoria Doggett, Kevin McCauley and Mark Roth at the Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$6. Call 641-0235.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Short Films for Short People - A half hour of short films for kids aged 3 to 5. Mission Branch Library 3359 24th St. 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and 2 p.m. free. Call 695-5090

Thank You Magnuson Man - An evening with the innovative John Magnuson who made the documentary The Lenny

Bruce Performance Film, the animated short Thank You Masked Man (written by Bruce) and creator of the first Sesame Street animations at the Marsh 1062 Valencia St., 8:30 P.m., \$6-10. Call 641-0235.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 15

Kid's Crafts - A free holiday craft program for kids at the Mission Branch Library 3359 24th St., 3:30 p.m. Call 695-5090 for details.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 16

Does Mrs. Santa Claus Know About This ? - Readings and performances by the contributors to Largesse, erotica by and about full figured women created by members of a women's writing collective whose sexual enthusiasm matches their size. Straight and bisexual perspectives are reflected. Old Wives' Tales 1009 Valencia St., 8:00 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

Puerto Rican Poetry and Song - Verse by poet Ronaldo Rosario and music by Grupo Cotidiano. Pena del Sur 2870-A 22nd St., 8 p.m., \$5. Call 550-1101.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18

24th St. Christmas Parade - 8:30 a.m., 24th and Mission to 24th and Alabama Lots of nonintense fun for even the most hardened Scrooge.

The Legion of LaSalle - Experimental films by avant-gardists "who out of disgust and spite for Mick LaSalle.... create their own film idiolects" That'll show him. A.T.A. 992 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 648-0654.

It's A Wonderful Menotti! - The Community Music Center's Holiday Party for children features a performance of Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors by the Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble, followed by snacks and Santa. Community Music Center 544 Capp St., 11:30 a.m., free. Call 647-6015.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

Some Very Busy Peruvians - The Andean folk group Markahuasi includes five musicians and 30 instruments all of which will be at Pena del Sur 2870 22nd St., 6 p.m., \$5. Call 550-1101.

Jack's Back - After being way overexposed in local cafes, bookstores, galleries and alleyways Jack Micheline took an extended vacation on the Eastcoast. He has returned and will read his poetry at Abandoned Planet Books 518 Valencia St., 8 p.m., free.

Live Jazz - Lisle Ellis does that Jazz stuff at Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 826-1199.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

Stop the Matrix Madness - The Anti-Poverty Coalition's efforts to end the Mayor's Matrix Program will include an interfaith homeless deaths candlelight vigil at Civic Center Plaza beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by a silent march to Union Square at 6:30, where theatre, poetry, puppetry, song and speeches will commence at 7:00. Film at 11:00. Call 397-4911.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22

The Trimming Tradition - Take the kids over to the Mission Branch Library for the annual tree decorating crafts program. 3359 24th St., 3:30 p.m., free. Call 695-5090.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

If chance and circumstance really find you with nothing to do on Xmas Eve you might seriously think about getting a life; on the other hand you could get good and plastered at one of our fine local dives and then stagger over to the 10:30 performance of A Karen Carpenter Christmas at the Marsh. See the December 8th listing for details.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

Deck the Halls With Busts of Astarte - Suppressed Histories: The Afro-Asian Goddess: a slide show presentation honoring the older spiritual traditions of Asian lands bordering Africa. Allah be praised, no Christmas carols. Old Wives Tales 1009 Valencia St., 7:30 p.m., \$3-10. Call 821-4676.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

Still Feeling Good Hearted After Xmas? - Then check out Jazz musician Matthew Goodheart at Radio Valencia 1199 Valencia St., 8:30 p.m., \$5. Call 826-1199.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

This Will Get Them Out of the House for a While - New Year's party hat making workshop for kids. Mission Branch Library 3359 24th St., 7:00 p.m., free. Call 695-5090.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

Jerks for Jordan New Year's Eve Extravaganza - Ring in the New Year with the political walking wounded. These annual bashes begin at 9 p.m. and end abruptly when the revelers discover December is one of those months with 31 days in it. Go to the swings in Dolores Park; ask for Mario.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31

Happy Blue Years - The Blues band the Blue Room Boys are the musical headliners at Radio Valencia's New Year's Party. 1199 Valencia St., 10:00 p.m., \$10. Call 826-1199.

LATE NIGHT LUDWIG - The Community Music Center Orchestra performs Beethoven's 9th Symphony (The Choral) timed to conclude just before the stroke midnight, which has got to be a hell of a lot cooler than a bunch of noise makers and bellowing drunks. First Congregational Church 432 Mason St., Free but seating is first come first serve. Repeats New Year's Day at 4:00 p.m. Call 647-6015.

CLOSE ENOUGH TO CRAWL HOME FROM - Live Jazz by Jazz On The Line, Diversions and Party Favors, all for the modest price of \$5 at Blondies Bar No Grill (or apostrophe) 540 Valencia St. Call 864-2419



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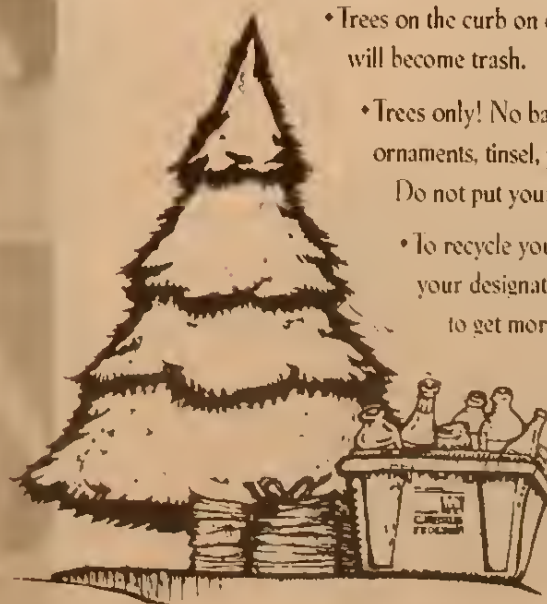
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ROUND WORLD MUSIC REVIEW

by Robert Leaver

LA RITMO

RITMO ORIENTAL



HISTORIA DE LA RITMO

vol. 2

A mere ninety miles from Florida, Cuba is so close to America, but the tragedy of foreign policy has kept us isolated from our cultural cousins. As this writer has stated and anyone who is musically literate in Latin music can confirm, Cuban music is part of American music - jazz, salsa even pop. Since the Cuban revolution there has been very little chance for Cuban and American musicians to continue their historical dialogue, but recently there has

been more access both ways. During the '70s and '80s one of the most popular Cuban dance bands was Ritmo Oriental. Founded in Havana in 1958, they took their name from the eastern province of Cuba — the birthplace of the uniquely Cuban son. A *charanga tipica* band - rhythm section, several vocalists, violins and flute — "La Ritmo" have been innovative and changing. Ritmo Oriental are known for their strong rhythm section, including a drum-

mer who plays a hybrid drum/timbales kit, and a "conguero" who incorporates the sound of the sacred bata drums. Strong lead and unusual harmony vocals as well as violin virtuosity characterize their sound.

QBadisc records, which has released some crucial Cuban music, now brings us the definitive Ritmo Oriental on two CD's — *Historia De La Ritmo*, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2. These two volumes are compiled from six LP's recorded between 1975 and 1988. Compiled by Ned Sublette and Harry Sepulveda (of Record Mart in Times Square) this collection "es lo mas sublime." Cuban Gold also comes to us from QBadisc. Compiled again by Harry Sepulveda this is an excellent diverse collection of contemporary Cuban music. Many well know bands are included here - Los Va Van, Son 14, Irakere and Rumbavana - but there are some gems by some more obscure groups like Aliamen and Manguare. Also included on this compilation is the mind blowing tour-de-force by a large group of Cuban all-star musicians calling themselves "Estrellas de Areito"; clocking in at over eleven minutes, this is one of the most exciting pieces of music I've ever heard. Check out "Hasta Partojo Baila Me Son." Cuba's Caribbean neighbors are well represented on a collection entitled *Caribbean Beat*. The common denominator among the bands here is that they appeared at a Caribbean music festival in Belgium. Haiti, Surinam, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Martinique, St. Thomas, St. Lucia, and Curacao are all represented. From ska to merengue to soca to compas, this is music to move to. There's no time for self-pity when life is hard — people want to party, to move. Put your trouble aside and check this! For those who like to wine and jam, Ice records brings us the definitive Soca Carnival 93. Included are 10 songs by the likes of Superblue, Mighty Sparrow, David Ruddes, Lord Kitchener and United Sisters. Clocking in at over one hour and with great sound clarity, this is a must for fans of Soca from Trinidad. Reggae dub music developed in the '70s as producers took their recorded material mixed out the vocals for a instrumental version and generally played around with stoned-out effects. Two classic dub records by Burning Spear, *Living Dub* Vol. 1 and 2 have just been remixed and re-released. These records have long been cornerstones of duh and these CD releases by Hearbeat are proven classic. Also, on one CD is Burning Spear's greatest album from 1977, *Marcus Garvey* and the dub of that album, *Garvey's Ghost*. Check them out at Round World Music.



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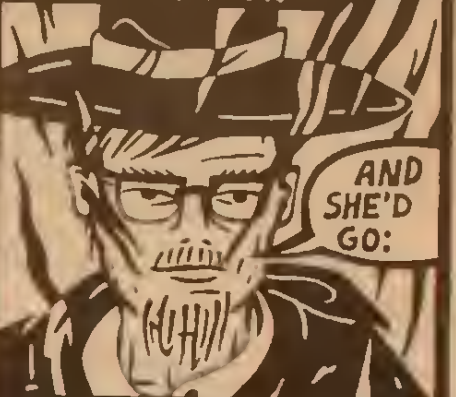
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SHE WAS TELLING ME
HOW WHEN SHE WAS IN
HIGHSCHOOL,



HER FRIENDS WOULD GO
LIKE "WHO WAS THAT
CUTE BOY YOU WERE
WITH LAST NIGHT? I
SAW YOU IN THE MALL!
DON'T DENY IT."



DAT'S NOT MY BOYFRIEND
THAT'S MY MOTHER

INTER
MISSION

number 12 RIGO 93

SO I'M SITTING AT THIS
CAFÉ, AND THIS WOMAN
COMES IN, SHE'S KINDA
HEAVY, SHY, MID-30'S AND
IS WEARING A RED SHIRT.
SHE SITS WITH A FRIEND

THEY TALK
THEN



THIS GUY COMES IN, WALKS
BY HER, SMILES AND
SAYS:



WOW,
I'VE NEVER
SEEN SUCH

A BEAUTIFUL
FUL SHIRT

THE WOMAN IS PLEASED
AND BLUSHES A LITTLE.
A COUPLE 'MINUTES LATER
A BOY WALKS IN WITH
A DOG. THE GUY TURNS
TO HIM, SMILES AND
SAYS: I'VE NEVER SEEN
SUCH A BEAUTIFUL DOG!

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HOW THE MAYOR STOLE CHRISTMAS



by Frank Stauff with Katherine Freeman

A million Christmas lights twinkled
On the buildings downtown
But the Mayor in his office
Sat wearing a frown.
Two years in this office
Had taken their toll.
He was down in the dumps.

He was down in the polls!
He sighed as he puzzled
His sparsely-haired head,
Then he got an idea.
Smiling slyly, he said:
"What I want for Christmas
Is a scapegoat to take
The minds of the people
Off the messes I make!

I'll start with a curfew
On troublesome teens,
From the Mission to Bayview

— You know who I mean!
I'll give speeches on crime,
I'll be 'the Mayor who got TOUGH!'
But deep in his small heart
He knew this wasn't enough.
"What I need is a scapegoat
Whom almost no one defends!
Someone without money,
Without lawyers or friends!
Someone to attack
Without being labelled a bigot,
— and too weak to fight back
(if there were some way to rig it)."
He stepped to the window
And looked down below
— "Who are all those people
With no place to go?
Camping out with their shopping carts
Right there in the plaza,
They come in all colors —
Black, white and La Raza!
They call themselves 'homeless'
But I think they're just bums!
They're drug addicts! Winos!
Unemployable scum!
Good citizens and tourists

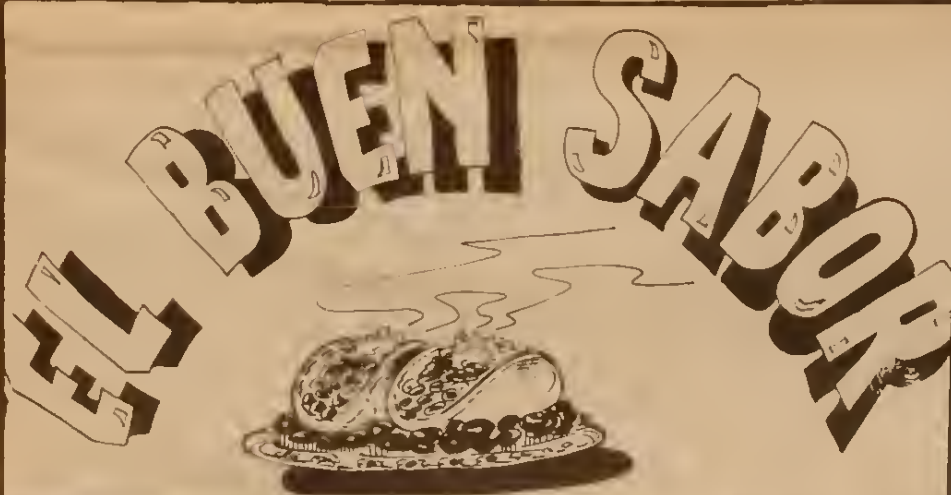
Avoid them in fear;
It's not good for business
What with Christmas so near!"
He rubbed his pale hands
As he started to gloat:
"My God, this is perfect!
They don't even vote!
Such dreadful people!
They'll be sorry they came.

At last! At last!
I have someone to blame!
I'll come up with a program!
A program, you'll see!
I'll call it THE MATRIX!"
And he chortled with glee.
To his lap-dog Ribera
The Chief Of Police
He said, "Go break up their camp!
They're disturbing the peace!
They're drinking and littering.

Rude and unsightly!

Urinating in public,
And I don't take that lightly!
Take their flea-ridden blankets
And throw 'em away!
So what if it's cold?
That's the price that they pay
For being jobless and homeless
And sinking so low
In such a city of plenty.
You heard me! Now go!"
So the camp was dispersed
While Supervisors debated,
The homeless kicked out
And their carts confiscated —
Blankets and sleeping bags
Taken away —
And the plaza was empty
Come Christmas Day.
— Now an old homeless veteran
Picks a hutt off the street,
Last night two young chuckleheads
Stole the shoes off his feet...
Curling up in a doorway
He lays down his head...
Two cops try to roust him —
"Whatsa matter, you dead?"

Hey buddy! Get moving!
I'm talking to you!"
Another statistic
Makes the evening news:
"A homeless man
Was found dead today
By two police officers
In a doorway..."
While the Mayor enjoys Christmas
At home with his family,
With a porcelain angel
Smiling down from the tree.
THE MATRIX is working!
The downtowners adore him!
Bleeding-heart whiners
Do nothing but bore him.
As he sits at the table
To carve the roast beast,
Is he troubled by conscience?
Not in the least.



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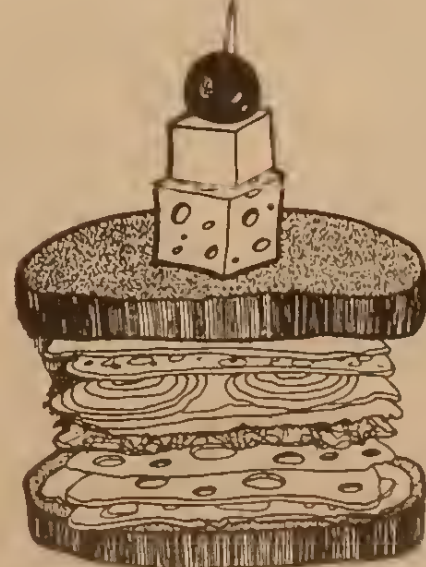
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